THE

ADVENTURES

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OF

SIR LAUNCELOT GREAVES.

BY DR. SMOLLETT.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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THE

ADVENTURES OF

Peregrine Pickle.

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OF

SIR LAUNCELOT GREAVES.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

CHAP. I.

IN WHICH CERTAIN PERSONAGES OF THIS DELIGHTFUL HISTORY ARE INTRODUCED TO THE READER'S ACQUAINTANCE.

IT was on the great northern road from York to London, about the beginning of the month of October, and the hour of eight in the evening, that four travellers were, by a violent shower of rain, driven for shelter into a little publick-house on the side of the highway, distinguished by a sign which was said to exhibit the figure of a Black Lion. The kitchen, in which they assembled, was the only room for entertainment in the house, paved with red bricks, remarkably clean, furnished with three or four Windsor chairs, adorned with shining plates of pewter, and copper saucepans nicely scoured, that even dazzled the eyes of the beholder; while a chearful fire of sea-coal blazed in the chimney. Three of the travellers, who arrived on horseback, having seen their cattle properly accommodated in the stable, agreed to pass the time, until the weather should clear up, over a bowl of rumbo, which was accordingly prepared; but the fourth, refusing to join their company, took his station at the opposite side of the chimney, and called for a pint of two-penny, with which he indulged himself apart. At a little distance, on his left-hand, there was another groupe, consisting of the landlady, a decent widow; her two daughters, the elder of whom seemed to be about the age of fifteen; and a country lad, who served both as waiter and ostler.

The social triumvirate was composed of Mr. Fillet, a country practitioner in surgery and midwifery, Captain Crowe, and his nephew Mr. Thomas Clarke, an attorney. Fillet was a man of some education, and a great deal of experience, shrewd, sly, and sensible. Captain Crowe had commanded a merchant-ship in the Mediterranean trade for many years, and saved some money by dint of frugality and traffick. He was an excellent seaman, brave, active, friendly in his way, and scrupulously honest, but as little acquainted with the world as a sucking child; whimsical, impatient, and so impetuous, that he could not help breaking in upon the conversation, whatever it might be, with repeated interruptions, that seemed to burst from him by involuntary impulse: when he himself attempted to speak, he never finished his period, but made such a number of abrupt transitions, that his discourse seemed to be an unconnected series of unfinished sentences, the meaning of which it was not easy to decypher.

His nephew, Tom Clarke, was a young fellow, whose goodness of heart

even

even the exercise of his profession had not been able to corrupt. Before strangers he never owned himself an attorney without blushing; though he had no reason to blush for his own practice, for he constantly refused to engage in the cause of any client whose character was equivocal; and was never known to act with such industry as when concerned for the widow and orphan, or any other object that sued *in forma pauperis*. Indeed he was so replete with human kindness, that as often as an affecting story or circumstance was told in his hearing, it overflowed at his eyes. Being of a warm complexion, he was very susceptible of passion, and somewhat libertine in his amours. In other respects, he piqued himself on understanding the practice of the courts, and in private company he took pleasure in laying down the law; but he was an indifferent orator, and tediously circumstantial in his explanations: his stature was rather diminutive; but, upon the whole, he had some title to the character of a pretty, dapper, little fellow.

The solitary guest had something very forbidding in his aspect, which was contracted by an habitual frown. His eyes were small and red, and so deep set in the sockets, that each appeared like the unextinguished snuff of a farthing candle gleaming through the horn of a dark lanthorn. His nostrils were elevated in scorn, as if his sense of smelling had been perpetually offended by some unsavoury odour; and he looked as if he wanted to shrink within himself from the impertinence of society. He wore a black periwig, as straight as the pinions of a raven, and this was covered with an hat flapped, and fastened to his head by a speckled handkerchief tied under his chin. He was wrapped in a great coat of brown frieze, under which he seemed to conceal a small bundle. His name was Ferret, and his character distinguished by three peculiarities. He was never seen to smile; he was never heard to speak in praise of any person whatsoever; and he was never known to give a direct answer to any question that was asked; but seemed, on all occasions, to be actuated by the most perverse spirit of contradiction.

Captain Crowe, having remarked that it was squally weather, asked how far it was to the next market-town; and understanding that the distance was not less than six miles, said he had a good mind to come to an anchor for the night, if so be as he could have a tolerable *berth* in this here harbour. Mr. Fillet perceiving by his style that he was a sea-faring gentleman, observed that their landlady was not used to lodge such company; and expressed some surprize, that he, who had, no doubt, endured so many storms and hardships at sea, should think much of travelling five or six miles a horseback by moon-light. 'For my part,' said he, 'I ride in all weathers, and all 'hours, without minding cold, wet, 'wind, or darkness. My constitution 'is so case-hardened, that I believe I 'could live all the year at Spitzbergen. 'With respect to this road, I know 'every foot of it so exactly, that I'll 'engage to travel forty miles upon it 'blindfold, without making one false 'step; and if you have faith enough to 'put yourselves under my auspices, I 'will conduct you safe to an elegant 'inn, where you will meet with the best 'accommodation.'—'Thank you, 'brother,' replied the captain; 'we 'are much beholden to you for your 'courteous offer; but howsomever, 'you must not think I mind foul weather more than my neighbours. I 'have worked hard aloft and alow in 'many a taught gale—but this here is 'the case, d'ye see; we have run down 'a long day's reckoning; our beasts 'have had a hard spell; and as for my 'own hap, brother, I doubt my bottom-planks have lost some of their 'sheathing, being as how I a'n't used 'to that kind of scrubbing.'

The doctor, who had practised on board a man of war in his youth, and was perfectly well acquainted with the captain's dialect, assured him, that if his bottom was damaged, he would *new-pay* it with an excellent salve, which he always carried about him, to guard against such accidents on the road: but Tom Clarke, who seemed to have cast the eyes of affection upon the landlady's eldest daughter, Dolly, objected to their proceeding farther without rest and refreshment, as they had already travelled fifty miles since morning; and he was sure his uncle must be fatigued both in mind and body, from vexation, as well as from a hard exercise to which he had not been accustomed. Fillet then desisted, saying, he was sorry to find

ſhod the captain had any cauſe for vexation; but he hoped it was not an incurable evil. This expreſſion was accompanied with a look of curioſity, which Mr. Clarke was glad of an occaſion to gratify; for, as we have hinted above, he was a very communicative gentleman, and the affair which now lay upon his ſtomach intereſted him nearly.

'I'll aſſure you, Sir,' ſaid he, 'this here gentleman, Captain Crowe, who is my mother's own brother, has been cruelly uſed by ſome of his relations. He bears as good a character as any captain of a ſhip on the Royal Exchange, and has undergone a variety of hardſhips at ſea. What d'ye think, now, of his burſting all his ſinews, and making his eyes ſtart out of his head, in pulling his ſhip off a rock, whereby he ſaved to his owners——' Here he was interrupted by the captain, who exclaimed, 'Belay, Tom, belay—pr'ythee, don't veer out ſuch a deal of jaw. Clap a ſtopper on thy cable, and bring thyſelf up, my lad; what a deal of ſtuff thou haſt pumped up concerning burſting, and ſtarting, and pulling ſhips: Laud have mercy upon us! Look ye here, brother—look ye here—mind theſe poor crippled joints; two fingers on the ſtarboard, and three on the larboard hand; crooked, d'ye ſee, like the knees of a bilander. I'll tell you what, brother, you ſeem to be a—ſhip deep laden—rich cargo—current ſetting into the bay—hard gale—leeſhore—all hands in the boat—tow round the headland—ſelf pulling for dear blood, againſt the whole crew. Snap go the finger-braces — crack went the eye-blocks.—Bounce daylight—flaſh ſtar-light—down I foundered, dark as hell—whizz went my ears, and my head ſpun like a whirligig.——That don't ſignify—I'm a Yorkſhire boy, as the ſaying is; all my life at ſea, brother, by reaſon of an old grandmother and maiden aunt, a couple of old ſtinking——, kept me theſe forty years out of my grandfather's eſtate.——Hearing as how they had taken their departure, came aſhore, hired horſes, and clapped on all my canvas, ſteering to the northward, to take poſſeſſion of my ——But it don't ſignify talking—theſe two old piratical——had held a palaver with a lawyer—an attorney, Tom, d'ye mind me, an attorney—and by his aſſiſtance, hove me out of my inheritance—that is all, brother, hove me out of five hundred pounds a year; that's all—what ſignifies—but ſuch windfalls we don't every day pick up along ſhore.—Fill about, brother——Yes, by the Lord! thoſe two ſmuggling harridans, with the aſſiſtance of an attorney—an attorney, Tom—hove me out of five hundred a year.'—'Yes, indeed, Sir,' added Mr. Clarke, 'thoſe two malicious old women docked the intail, and left the eſtate to an alien.'

Here Mr. Ferret thought proper to intermingle in the converſation, with a '*Piſh*, what, do'ſt talk of docking the intail? Do'ſt not know that by the ſtatute Weſtm. 2. 13 Ed. the will and intention of the donor muſt be fulfilled, and the tenant in *tail* ſhall not alien after iſſue had, or before.'—'Give me leave, Sir,' replied Tom; 'I preſume you are a practitioner in the law. Now you know, that in the caſe of a contingent *remainder*, the intail may be deſtroyed by levying a fine, and ſuffering a recovery; or otherwiſe deſtroying the particular eſtate, before the contingency happens. If *feoffees*, who poſſeſs an eſtate only during the life of a ſon, where divers *remainders* are limited over, make a *feoffment* in fee to him, by the *feoffment* all the future *remainders* are deſtroyed. Indeed, a perſon in *remainder* may have a writ of intruſion, if any do intrude after the death of a tenant for life; and the writ *ex gravi querela* lies to execute a deviſe in *remainder*, after the death of a tenant in tail without iſſue.'—'Spoke like a true diſciple of Geber!' cries Ferret. 'No, Sir,' replied Mr. Clarke, 'Counſellor Caper is in the conveyancing way—I was clerk to Serjeant Croaker.'—'Aye, and now you may ſet up for yourſelf,' reſumed the other, for you can prate as unintelligibly as the beſt of them.'

'Perhaps,' ſaid Tom, 'I do not make myſelf underſtood: if ſo be as how that is the caſe, let us change the poſition; and ſuppoſe that this here caſe is a *tail after a poſſibility of iſſue extinct*. If a tenant in *tail*, after a poſſibility, make a *feoffment* of his land, he in reverſion may enter

'for the forfeiture. Then we muſt 'make a diſtinction between *general* 'tail and *ſpecial tail*. It is the word '*body* that makes the *intail*; there muſt 'be a *body* in the *tail*, deviſed to heirs 'male or female, otherwiſe it is a fee-'ſimple, becauſe it is not limited of 'what *body*. Thus a corporation can-'not be ſeized in *tail*. For example; 'here is a young woman — What is 'your name, my dear?' — 'Dolly,' anſwered the daughter, with a curtſey. 'Here's Dolly—I ſeize Dolly in *tail*— 'Dolly, I ſeize you in *tail*.'—'Sha't 'then!' cried Dolly, pouting. 'I am 'ſeized of land in fee — I ſettle on 'Dolly in *tail*.'——

Dolly, who did not comprehend the nature of the illuſtration, underſtood him in a literal ſenſe, and in a whimpering tone exclaimed, 'Sha't then, I 'tell thee, curſed tuoad!' Tom, however, was ſo tranſported with his ſubject, that he took no notice of poor Dolly's miſtake; but proceeded in his harangue upon the different kinds of *tails*, *remainders*, and *ſeiſins*, when he was interrupted by a noiſe that alarmed the whole company. The rain had been ſucceeded by a ſtorm of wind, that howled around the houſe with the moſt ſavage impetuoſity; and the heavens were overcaſt in ſuch a manner that not one ſtar appeared, ſo that all without was darkneſs and uproar. This aggravated the horrors of divers loud ſcreams, which even the noiſe of the blaſt could not exclude from the aſtoniſhed ears of our travellers. Captain Crowe called out, 'Avaſt, avaſt!' Tom Clarke ſat ſilent, ſtaring wildly, with his mouth ſtill open; the ſurgeon himſelf ſeemed ſtartled, and Ferret's countenance betrayed evident marks of confuſion. The oſtler moved nearer the chimney; and the good woman of the houſe, with her two daughters, crept cloſe to the company.

After ſome pauſe, the captain ſtarting up, 'Theſe,' ſaid he, 'be ſignals of 'diſtreſs. Some poor ſouls in danger 'of foundering; let us bear up a-head, 'and ſee if we can give them any aſ-'ſiſtance.' The landlady begged him, for Chriſtis ſake, not to think of going out; for it was a ſpirit that would lead him aſtray into fens and rivers, and certainly do him a miſchief. Crowe ſeemed to be ſtaggered by this remonſtrance, which his nephew reinforced, obſerving, that it might be a ſtratagem of rogues to decoy them into the fields, that they might rob them under the cloud of night. Thus exhorted, he reſumed his ſeat; and Mr. Ferret began to make very ſevere ſtrictures upon the folly and fear of thoſe who believed and trembled at the viſitation of ſpirits, ghoſts, and goblins. He ſaid, he would engage with twelve penny-worth of phoſphorus to frighten a whole pariſh out of their ſenſes: then he expatiated on the puſillanimity of the nation in general, ridiculed the militia, cenſured the government, and dropped ſome hints about a change of hands, which the captain could not, and the doctor would not comprehend.

Tom Clarke, from the freedom of his diſcourſe, concluded he was a miniſterial ſpy, and communicated his opinion to his uncle in a whiſper, while this miſanthrope continued to pour forth his invectives with a fluency peculiar to himſelf. The truth is, Mr. Ferret had been a party-writer, not from principle, but employment, and had felt the rod of power; in order to avoid a ſecond exertion of which, he now found it convenient to ſkulk about in the country; for he had received intimation of a warrant from the ſecretary of ſtate, who wanted to be better acquainted with his perſon. Notwithſtanding the tickliſh nature of his ſituation, it was become ſo habitual to him to think and ſpeak in a certain manner, that even before ſtrangers, whoſe principles and connections he could not poſſibly know, he hardly ever opened his mouth without uttering ſome direct or implied ſarcaſm againſt the government.

He had already proceeded a conſiderable way in demonſtrating that the nation was bankrupt and beggared, and that thoſe who ſtood at the helm were ſteering full into the gulph of inevitable deſtruction; when his lecture was ſuddenly ſuſpended by a violent knocking at the door, which threatened the whole houſe with immediate demolition. Captain Crowe, believing they ſhould be inſtantly boarded, unſheathed his hanger, and ſtood in a poſture of defence. Mr. Fillet armed himſelf with the poker, which happened to be red-hot; the oſtler pulled down a ruſty firelock, that hung by the roof over a flitch of bacon. Tom Clarke, perceiving the landlady and her children diſ-

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Plate I. Published as the Act directs by Harrison & Co. Sept. 7, 1782.

tracted with terror, conducted them, out of mere compaſſion, below ſtairs into the cellar; and as for Mr. Ferret, he prudently withdrew into an adjoining pantry.

But as a perſonage of great importance in this entertaining hiſtory was forced to remain ſome time at the door before he could gain admittance, ſo muſt the reader wait with patience for the next chapter, in which he will ſee the cauſe of this diſturbance explained much to his comfort and edification.

CHAP. II.

IN WHICH THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES MAKES HIS FIRST APPEARANCE ON THE STAGE OF ACTION.

THE outward door of the Black Lion had already ſuſtained two dreadful ſhocks; but at the third it flew open, and in ſtalked an apparition, that ſmote the hearts of our travellers with fear and trepidation. It was the figure of a man armed cap-a-pie, bearing on his ſhoulder a bundle dropping with water, which afterwards appeared to be the body of a man that ſeemed to have been drowned, and fiſhed up from the bottom of the neighbouring river.

Having depoſited his burden carefully on the floor, he addreſſed himſelf to the company in theſe words. 'Be 'not ſurprized, good people, at this 'unuſual appearance, which I ſhall 'take an opportunity to explain; and 'forgive the rude and boiſterous 'manner in which I have demanded, 'and indeed forced admittance; the 'violence of my intruſion was the ef'fect of neceſſity. In croſſing the river, 'my ſquire and his horſe were ſwept 'away by the ſtream; and with ſome 'difficulty I have been able to drag 'him aſhore, though I am afraid my 'aſſiſtance reached him too late; for, 'ſince I brought him to land, he has 'given no ſigns of life.'

Here he was interrupted by a groan which iſſued from the cheſt of the ſquire, and terrified the ſpectators as much as it comforted the maſter. After ſome recollection, Mr. Fillet began to undreſs the body, which was laid in a blanket on the floor, and rolled from ſide to ſide by his direction. A conſiderable quantity of water being diſcharged from the mouth of this unfortunate ſquire, he uttered a hideous roar; and, opening his eyes, ſtared wildly around: then the ſurgeon undertook for his recovery; and his maſter went forth with the oſtler in queſt of the horſes, which he had left by the ſide of the river. His back was no ſooner turned, than Ferret, who had been peeping from behind the pantry-door, ventured to rejoin the company; pronouncing with a ſmile, or rather grin of contempt, 'Hey day! what precious mum'mery is this? What! are we to have 'the farce of Hamlet's ghoſt?'—'Ad'zooks,' cried the captain, 'my kinſ'man Tom has dropped a-ſtern; hope 'in God a-has not bulged to, and gone 'to bottom!'—'Piſh,' exclaimed the miſanthrope, 'there's no danger; the 'young lawyer is only ſeizing Dolly in 'tail.'

Certain it is, Dolly ſqueaked at that inſtant in the cellar; and Clarke appearing ſoon after in ſome confuſion, declared ſhe had been frightened by a flaſh of lightning; but this aſſertion was not confirmed by the young lady herſelf, who eyed him with a ſullen regard, indicating diſpleaſure, though not indifference; and when queſtioned by her mother, replied, 'A-doan't maind 'what a-ſays, ſo a doan't, vor all his 'goalden jacket, then.'

In the mean time the ſurgeon had performed the operation of phlebotomy on the ſquire, who was lifted into a chair, and ſupported by the landlady for that purpoſe; but he had not as yet given any ſign of having retrieved the uſe of his ſenſes. And here Mr. Fillet could not help contemplating with ſurprize the ſtrange figure and accoutrements of his patient, who ſeemed in age to be turned of fifty. His ſtature was below the middle ſize; he was thick, ſquat, and brawny, with a ſmall protuberance on one ſhoulder, and a prominent belly, which, in conſequence of the water he had ſwallowed, now ſtrutted beyond it's uſual dimenſions. His forehead was remarkably convex, and ſo very low, that his black buſhy hair deſcended within an inch of his noſe; but this did not conceal the wrinkles of his front, which were manifold. His ſmall glimmering eyes reſembled thoſe of the Hampſhire porker, that turns up the ſoil with his projecting ſnout. His

cheeks were ſhrivelled and puckered at the corners, like the ſeams of a regimental coat as it comes from the hands of the contractor; his noſe bore a ſtrong analogy in ſhape to a tennis-ball, and in colour to a mulberry; for all the water in the river had not been able to quench the natural fire of that feature. His upper jaw was furniſhed with two long, white, ſharp-pointed teeth or fangs, ſuch as the reader may have obſerved in the chaps of a wolf, or full-grown maſtiff, and an anatomiſt would deſcribe as a preternatural elongation of the *dentes canini*. His chin was ſo long, ſo peaked, and incurvated, as to form in profile, with his impending forehead, the exact reſemblance of a moon in the firſt quarter. With reſpect to his equipage, he had a leathern cap upon his head, faced like thoſe worn by marines, and exhibiting in embroidery the figure of a creſcent. His coat was of white cloth faced with black, and cut in a very antique faſhion; and, in lieu of a waiſtcoat, he wore a buff jerkin. His feet were caſed with looſe buſkins, which, though they roſe almoſt to his knee, could not hide that curvature known by the appellation of bandy legs. A large ſtring of bandaliers garniſhed a broad belt that graced his ſhoulders, from whence depended an inſtrument of war, which was ſomething between a back-ſword and a cutlaſs; and a caſe of piſtols were ſtuck in his girdle.

Such was the figure which the whole company now ſurveyed with admiration. After ſome pauſe, he ſeemed to recover his recollection. He rolled about his eyes around, and attentively ſurveying every individual, exclaimed, in a ſtrange tone, 'Bodikins! where's Gilbert?' This interrogation did not ſavour much of ſanity, eſpecially when accompanied with a wild ſtare, which is generally interpreted as a ſure ſign of a diſturbed underſtanding; nevertheleſs, the ſurgeon endeavoured to aſſiſt his recollection. 'Come,' ſaid he, 'have a good heart. 'How doſt do, friend?'—'Do!' replied the ſquire, 'do as well as I can: 'that's a lye too; I might have done 'better. I had no buſineſs to be here.' —'You ought to thank God and your 'maſter,' reſumed the ſurgeon, 'for the 'providential eſcape you have had.'— 'Thank my maſter!' cried the ſquire, 'thank the devil!—Go and teach your 'grannum to crack filberds. I know 'who I'm bound to pray for, and who 'I ought to curſe the longeſt day I 'have to live.'

Here the captain interpoſing, 'Nay, 'brother,' ſaid he, 'you are bound to 'pray for this here gentleman as your 'ſheet-anchor; for, if ſo be as he had 'not cleared your ſtowage of the water 'you had taken in at your upper-works, and lightened your veins, d'ye 'ſee, by taking away ſome of your 'blood, adad! you had driven before 'the gale, and never been brought up in 'this world again, d'ye ſee.'—'What, 'then, you would perſuade me,' replied the patient, 'that the only way to ſave 'my life was to ſhed my precious 'blood? Look ye, friend, it ſhall not 'be loſt blood to me. I take you all 'to witneſs, that there ſurgeon, or 'apothecary, or farrier, or dog-doctor, 'or whatſoever he may be, has robbed 'me of the balſam of life; he has not 'left ſo much blood in my body as 'would fatten a ſtarved flea. O! that 'there was a lawyer here to ſerve him 'with a *ſiſerari*.'

Then fixing his eyes upon Ferret, he proceeded. 'An't you a limb of the 'law, friend?—No, I cry you mercy, 'you look more like a ſhew-man or a 'conjuror.' Ferret, nettled at this addreſs, anſwered, 'It would be well for 'you that I could conjure a little com-'mon ſenſe into that numbſcull of 'yours.'—'If I want that commodity,' rejoined the ſquire, 'I muſt go to ano-'ther market, I trow. You legerde-'main men be more like to conjure the 'money from our pockets than ſenſe 'into our ſculls. Vor my own part, I 'was once cheated of vorty good ſhill-'ings by one of your brocther cups 'and balls.' In all probability he would have deſcended to particulars, had he not been ſeized with a return of his nauſea, which obliged him to call for a bumper of brandy. This remedy being ſwallowed, the tumult in his ſtomach ſubſided. He deſired he might be put to-bed without delay, and that half a dozen eggs and a pound of bacon might, in a couple of hours, be dreſſed for his ſupper.

He was accordingly led off the ſcene by the landlady and her daughter; and Mr. Ferret had juſt time to obſerve the fellow was a compoſition, in which he did not know whether knave or fool

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moſt predominated, when the maſter returned from the ſtable. He had taken off his helmet, and now diſplayed a very engaging countenance. His age did not ſeem to exceed thirty; he was tall, and ſeemingly robuſt; his face long and oval, his noſe aquiline, his mouth furniſhed with a ſet of elegant teeth, white as the drifted ſnow; his complexion clear, and his aſpect noble. His cheſnut hair looſely flowed in ſhort natural curls; and his grey eyes ſhone with ſuch vivacity, as plainly ſhewed that his reaſon was a little diſcompoſed. Such an appearance prepoſſeſſed the greater part of the company in his favour. He bowed round with the moſt polite and affable addreſs; enquired about his ſquire; and being informed of the pains Mr. Fillet had taken for his recovery, inſiſted upon that gentleman's accepting an handſome gratuity: then, in conſideration of the cold-bath he had undergone, he was prevailed upon to take the poſt of honour, namely, the great chair fronting the fire, which was reinforced with a billet of wood for his comfort and convenience.

Perceiving his fellow-travellers either over-awed into ſilence by his preſence, or ſtruck dumb with admiration at his equipage, he accoſted them in theſe words, while an agreeable ſmile dimpled on his cheek.

'The good company wonders, no doubt, to ſee a man caſed in armour, ſuch as hath been for above a whole century diſuſed in this and every other country of Europe; and perhaps they will be ſtill more ſurprized when they hear that man profeſs himſelf a noviciate of that military order which hath of old been diſtinguiſhed in Great Britain, as well as through all Chriſtendom, by the name of knights-errant. Yes, gentlemen, in that painful and thorny path of toil and danger I have begun my career, a candidate for honeſt fame; determined, as far as in me lies, to honour and aſſert the efforts of virtue, to combat vice in all her forms, redreſs injuries, chaſtiſe oppreſſion, protect the helpleſs and forlorn, relieve the indigent, exert my beſt endeavours in the cauſe of innocence and beauty, and dedicate my talents, ſuch as they are, to the ſervice of my country.'

'What!' ſaid Ferret, 'you ſet up for a modern Don Quixote?—The ſcheme is rather too ſtale and extravagant.—What was an humorous romance, and well-timed ſatire in Spain near two hundred years ago, will make but a ſorry jeſt, and appear equally inſipid and abſurd, when really acted from affectation, at this time of day, in a country like England.'

The knight, eyeing this cenſor with a look of diſdain, replied, in a ſolemn lofty tone, 'He that from affectation imitates the extravagancies recorded of Don Quixote, is an impoſtor equally wicked and contemptible. He that counterfeits madneſs, unleſs he diſſembles, like the elder Brutus, for ſome virtuous purpoſe, not only debaſes his own ſoul, but acts as a traitor to Heaven, by denying the Divinity that is within him.—I am neither an affected imitator of Don Quixote, nor, as I truſt in Heaven, viſited by that ſpirit of lunacy ſo admirably diſplayed in the fictitious character exhibited by the inimitable Cervantes. I have not yet encountered a windmill for a giant, nor miſtaken this publick houſe for a magnificent caſtle; neither do I believe this gentleman to be the conſtable, nor that worthy practitioner to be maſter Elizabat, the ſurgeon recorded in Amadis de Gaul, nor you to be the enchanter Alquiſe, nor any other ſage of hiſtory or romance.—I ſee and diſtinguiſh objects as they are diſcerned and deſcribed by other men. I reaſon without prejudice; can endure contradiction; and, as the company perceives, even bear impertinent cenſure without paſſion or reſentment. I quarrel with none but the foes of virtue and decorum, againſt whom I have declared perpetual war, and them I will every where attack as the natural enemies of mankind.'

'But that war,' ſaid the cynick, 'may ſoon be brought to a concluſion, and your adventures cloſe in Bridewell, provided you meet with ſome determined conſtable, who will ſeize your worſhip as a vagrant, according to the ſtatute.'—'Heaven and earth!' cried the ſtranger, ſtarting up, and laying his hand on his ſword, 'do I live to hear myſelf inſulted with ſuch an opprobrious epithet, and refrain from trampling into duſt the inſolent calumniator!'

The tone in which theſe words were pronounced,

pronounced, and the indignation that flashed from the eyes of the speaker, intimidated every individual of the society, and reduced Ferret to a temporary privation of all his faculties. His eyes retired within their sockets; his complexion, which was naturally of a copper hue, now shifted to a leaden colour; his teeth began to chatter; and all his limbs were agitated by a sudden palsy. The knight observed his condition, and resumed his seat, saying, 'I was to blame: my vengeance must 'be reserved for very different objects. '—Friend, you have nothing to fear— 'the sudden gust of passion is now blown 'over. Recollect yourself, and I will 'reason calmly on the observation you 'have made.'

This was a very seasonable declaration to Mr. Ferret, who opened his eyes, and wiped his forehead, while the other proceeded in these terms: 'You 'say I am in danger of being apprehended as a vagrant; I am not so ignorant of the laws of my country, 'but that I know the description of 'those who fall within the legal meaning of this odious term. You must 'give me leave to inform you, friend, 'that I am neither bearward, fencer, 'stroller, gipsey, mountebank, nor mendicant; nor do I practise subtle craft 'to deceive and impose upon the king's 'lieges; nor can I be held as an idle, 'disorderly person, travelling from place 'to place, collecting monies by virtue of 'counterfeited passes, briefs, and other 'false pretences—In what respect therefore am I to be deemed a vagrant? 'Answer boldly, without fear or 'scruple.'

To this interrogation the misanthrope replied, with a faultering accent, 'If not a vagrant, you incur the 'penalty for riding armed in affray of 'the peace.'—'But, instead of riding 'armed in affray of the peace,' resumed the other, 'I ride in preservation of the 'peace; and gentlemen are allowed by 'the law to wear armour for their defence. Some ride with blunderbusses, 'some with pistols, some with swords, 'according to their various inclinations. 'Mine is to wear the armour of my 'forefathers: perhaps I use them for 'exercise, in order to accustom myself 'to fatigue, and strengthen my constitution; perhaps I assume them for a 'frolick.'

'But if you swagger armed and in 'disguise, assault me on the highway, 'or put me in bodily fear for the sake 'of the jest, the law will punish you in 'earnest,' cried the other.—'But my 'intention,' answered the knight, 'is 'carefully to avoid all those occasions 'of offences.'—'Then,' said Ferret, 'you may go unarmed, like other sober 'people.'—'Not so,' answered the knight; 'as I propose to travel all times, 'and in all places, mine armour may 'guard me against the attempts of treachery; it may defend me in combat 'against odds, should I be assaulted by 'a multitude, or have occasion to bring 'malefactors to justice.'

'What, then,' exclaimed the philosopher, 'you intend to co operate with 'the honourable fraternity of thief-'takers?'—'I do purpose,' said the youth, eyeing him with a look of ineffable contempt, 'to act as a coadjutor 'to the law, and even to remedy evils 'which the law cannot reach; to detect fraud and treason, abase insolence, 'mortify pride, discourage slander, disgrace immodesty, and stigmatize ingratitude: but the infamous part of a 'thief-catcher's character I disclaim. Neither do I associate with robbers and 'pickpockets, (knowing them to be 'such) that, in being entrusted with 'their secrets, I may the more effectually betray them; nor shall I ever 'pocket the reward granted by the legislature to those by whom robbers 'are brought to conviction; but I shall 'always think it my duty to rid my 'country of that pernicious vermin 'which preys upon the bowels of the 'commonwealth—not but that an 'incorporated company of licensed 'thieves might, under proper regulations, be of service to the community.'

Ferret, emboldened by the passive tameness with which the stranger bore his last reflection, began to think he had nothing of Hector but his outside, and gave a loose to all the acrimony of his party-rancour. Hearing the knight mention a company of licensed thieves, 'What else,' cried he, 'is the majority 'of the nation? What is your standing 'army at home, that eat up their fellow-subjects? What are your mercenaries abroad, whom you hire to 'fight their own quarrels? What is 'your militia, that wise measure of a

'sagacious

'ſagacious miniſtry, but a larger gang
'of petty thieves, who ſteal ſheep and
'poultry through mere idleneſs; and,
'were they confronted with an enemy,
'would ſteal themſelves away? What
'is your ***** but a knot of thieves,
'who pillage the nation under colour of
'law, and enrich themſelves with the
'wreck of their country? When you
'conſider the enormous debt of above
'an hundred millions, the intolerable
'load of taxes and impoſitions under
'which we groan, and the manner in
'which that burden is yearly accumu-
'lating to ſupport two German electo-
'rates, without our receiving any thing
'in return but the ſhews of triumph
'and ſhadows of conqueſt; I ſay,
'when you reflect on theſe circum-
'ſtances, and at the ſame time behold
'our cities filled with bankrupts, and
'our country with beggars, can you
'be ſo infatuated as to deny that the
'miniſtry is mad, or worſe than mad;
'our wealth exhauſted, our people mi-
'ſerable, our credit blaſted, and our
'ſtate on the brink of perdition? This
'proſpect, indeed, will make the fainter
'impreſſion, if we recollect that we
'ourſelves are a pack of ſuch profli-
'gate, corrupted, puſillanimous raſcals,
'as deſerve no ſalvation.'

The ſtranger, raiſing his voice to a loud tone, replied, 'Such, indeed, are
'the inſinuations, equally falſe and
'inſidious, with which the deſperate
'emiſſaries of a party endeavour to
'poiſon the minds of his majeſty's
'ſubjects, in defiance of common ho-
'neſty and common ſenſe. But he
'muſt be blind to all perception, and
'dead to candour, who does not ſee
'and own that we are involved in a juſt
'and neceſſary war, which has been
'maintained on truly Britiſh principles,
'proſecuted with vigour, and crowned
'with ſucceſs; that our taxes are eaſy,
'in proportion to our wealth; that our
'conqueſts are equally glorious and
'important; that our commerce flou-
'riſhes, our people are happy, and our
'enemies reduced to deſpair.—Is there
'a man who boaſts a Britiſh heart, that
'repines at the ſucceſs and proſperity of
'his country? Such there are, O ſhame
'to patriotiſm, and reproach to Great
'Britain! who act as the emiſſaries of
'France both in words and writing;
'who exaggerate our neceſſary burdens,
'magnify our dangers, extol the power
'of our enemies, deride our victories,
'extenuate our conqueſts, condemn
'the meaſures of our government, and
'ſcatter the ſeeds of diſſatisfaction
'through the land. Such domeſtick
'traitors are doubly the objects of de-
'teſtation; firſt, in perverting truth;
'and, ſecondly, in propagating falſe-
'hood, to the prejudice of that com-
'munity of which they have profeſſed
'themſelves members. One of theſe
'is well known by the name of Ferret,
'an old, rancorous, incorrigible inſtru-
'ment of ſedition; happy it is for him
'that he has never fallen in my way;
'for, notwithſtanding the maxims of
'forbearance which I have adopted,
'the indignation which the character
'of that caitiff inſpires would pro-
'bably impel me to ſome act of vio-
'lence, and I ſhould cruſh him like an
'ungrateful viper that gnawed the bo-
'ſom which warmed it into life.'

Theſe laſt words were pronounced with a wildneſs of look that even bordered upon phrenzy. The miſanthrope once more retired to the pantry for ſhelter, and the reſt of the gueſts were evidently diſconcerted.

Mr. Fillet, in order to change the converſation, which was likely to produce ſerious conſequences, expreſſed uncommon ſatisfaction at the remarks which the knight had made; ſignified his approbation of the honourable office he had undertaken; declared himſelf happy in having ſeen ſuch an accompliſhed cavalier; and obſerved, that nothing was wanting to render him a compleat knight-errant but ſome celebrated beauty, the miſtreſs of his heart, whoſe idea might animate his breaſt, and ſtrengthen his arm to the utmoſt exertion of valour: he added, that love was the ſoul of chivalry.

The ſtranger ſtarted at this diſcourſe. He turned his eyes on the ſurgeon with a fixed regard; his countenance changed; a torrent of tears guſhed down his cheeks; his head ſunk upon his boſom; he heaved a profound ſigh; and remained in ſilence with all the external marks of unutterable ſorrow. The company were in ſome meaſure infected by his deſpondence; concerning the cauſe of which, however, they would not venture to enquire.

By this time the landlady, having diſpoſed of the ſquire, deſired to know, with many curtſeys, if his honour would

not

not chuſe to put off his wet garments; aſſuring him, that ſhe had a very good feather-bed at his ſervice, upon which many gentlevolks of the firſt quality had lain; that the ſheets were well aired, and that Dolly ſhould warm them for his worſhip with a pan of coals. This hoſpitable offer being repeated, he ſeemed to wake from a trance of grief; aroſe from his ſeat, and, bowing courteouſly to the company, withdrew.

Captain Crowe, whoſe faculty of ſpeech had been all this time abſorbed in amazement, now broke into the converſation with a volley of interjections. 'Split my ſnatch-block! Odd's firkin! 'Splice my old ſhoes! I have ſailed the 'ſalt ſeas, brother, ſince I was no higher 'than the Triton's taffrel; eaſt, weſt, 'north, and ſouth, as the ſaying is; 'Blacks, Indians, Moors, Morattos, 'and Seapoys; but, ſmite my timbers! 'ſuch a man of war——'

Here he was interrupted by his nephew Tom Clarke, who had diſappeared at the knight's firſt entrance, and now produced himſelf with an eagerneſs in his look, while the tears ſtarted in his eyes. 'Lord bleſs my ſoul!' cried he, 'I know that gentleman and his 'ſervant as well as I know my own 'father. I am his own godſon, uncle; 'he ſtood for me when he was a boy: 'yes, indeed, Sir, my father was ſteward 'to the eſtate; I may ſay I was bred 'up in the family of Sir Everhard 'Greaves, who has been dead theſe 'two years—this is the only ſon, Sir 'Launcelot; the beſt-natured, worthy, 'generous gentleman—I care not who 'knows it, I love him as well as if he 'was my own fleſh and blood.'

At this period, Tom, whoſe heart was of the melting mood, began to ſob and weep plenteouſly, from pure affection. Crowe, who was not very ſubject to theſe tenderneſſes, damned him for a chicken-hearted lubber; repeating, with much peeviſhneſs, 'What 'do'ſt cry for? What do'ſt cry for, 'noddy?' The ſurgeon, impatient to know the ſtory of Sir Launcelot, which he had heard imperfectly recounted, begged that Mr. Clarke would compoſe himſelf, and relate it as circumſtantially as his memory could retain the particulars; and Tom, wiping his eyes, promiſed to give him that ſatisfaction; which the reader, if he be ſo minded, may partake in the next chapter.

CHAP. III.

WHICH THE READER, ON PERUSAL, MAY WISH WERE CHAPTER THE LAST.

THE doctor preſcribed a *repetatur* of the julep, and mixed the ingredients *ſecundum artem*. Tom Clarke hemmed thrice, to clear his pipes; while the reſt of the company, including Dolly and her mother, who had by this time adminiſtered to the knight, compoſed themſelves into earneſt and huſhed attention. Then the young lawyer began his narration to this effect.

'I tell ye what, gemmen, I don't 'pretend in this here caſe to flouriſh 'and harangue like a—having never 'been called to—But what of that, d'ye 'ſee? Perhaps I may know as much 'as—facts are facts, as the ſaying is. 'I ſhall tell, repeat, and relate a plain 'ſtory—matters of fact, d'ye ſee, without rhetorick, oratory, ornament, or 'embelliſhment; without repetition, 'tautology, circumlocution, or going 'about the buſh: facts which I ſhall 'aver, partly on the teſtimony of my 'own knowledge, and partly from the 'information of reſponſible evidences 'of good repute and credit, any circumſtance known to the contrary notwithſtanding. For, as the law ſaith, if ſo 'be as how there is *an exception* to evidence, that *exception* is, in it's nature, 'but a denial of what is taken to be 'good by the other party, and *exceptio 'in non exceptis firmat regulam*, d'ye 'ſee. But howſomever, in regard to 'this here affair, we need not be ſo ſcrupulous as if we were pleading before 'a judge *ſedente curia*.'

Ferret, whoſe curioſity was rather more eager than that of any other perſon in this audience, being provoked by this preamble, daſhed the pipe he had juſt filled in pieces againſt the grate; and after having pronounced the interjection, 'Piſh!' with an acrimony of aſpect altogether peculiar to himſelf; 'If,' ſaid he, 'impertinence and folly were fe'lony by the ſtatute, there would be no 'want of unexceptionable evidence to

'hang

'hang ſuch an eternal babbler.'—'Anan, babbler!' cried Tom, reddening with paſſion, and ſtarting up, 'I'd 'have you to know, Sir, that I can bite 'as well as babble; and that, if I am 'ſo minded, I can run upon the foot 'after my game without being in fault, 'as the ſaying is; and, which is more, 'I can ſhake an old fox by the collar.'

How far this young lawyer might have proceeded to prove himſelf ſtaunch on the perſon of the miſanthrope, if he had not been prevented, we ſhall not determine; but the whole company were alarmed at his looks and expreſſions. Dolly's roſy cheeks aſſumed an aſh-colour, while ſhe ran between the diſputants, crying, 'Naay, naay; vor 'the love of God doant then, doant 'then!' But Captain Crowe exerted a parental authority over his nephew, ſaying, 'Avaſt, Tom, avaſt! Snugg's 'the word; we'll have no boarding, 'd'ye ſee. Haul forward thy chair 'again, take thy berth, and proceed 'with thy ſtory in a direct courſe, without yawing like a Dutch yanky.'

Tom, thus tutored, recollected himſelf, reſumed his ſeat, and, after ſome pauſe, plunged at once into the current of narration. 'I told you before, 'gemmen, that the gentleman in armour was the only ſon of Sir Everhard Greaves, who poſſeſſed a free 'eſtate of five thouſand a year in our 'county, and was reſpected by all his 'neighbours, as much for his perſonal 'merit as for his family fortune. With 'reſpect to his ſon Launcelot, whom 'you have ſeen, I can remember nothing until he returned from the univerſity, about the age of ſeventeen, 'and then I myſelf was not more than 'ten years old. The young gemman 'was at that time in mourning for his 'mother; though, God he knows, Sir 'Everhard had more cauſe to rejoice 'than to be afflicted at her death: for, 'among friends,' here he lowered his voice, and looked round the kitchen, 'ſhe was very whimſical, expenſive, and 'ill-tempered—and, I'm afraid, a little—upon the—flighty order—a little 'touched or ſo—but mum for that—the 'lady is now dead; and it is my maxim, '*de mortuis nil niſi bonum*. The young 'ſquire was even then very handſome, 'and looked remarkable well in his 'weepers; but he had an aukward air, 'and ſhambling gait, ſtooped mortally, 'and was ſo ſhy and ſilent, that he would 'not look a ſtranger in the face, nor 'open his mouth before company. 'Whenever he ſpied a horſe or carriage 'at the gate, he would make his eſcape 'into the garden, and from thence into 'the park; where many's the good 'time and often he has been found ſitting under a tree, with a book in his 'hand, reading Greek, Latin, and other 'foreign linguas.

'Sir Everhard himſelf was no great 'ſcholar, and my father had forgot his 'claſſical learning; and ſo the rector 'of the pariſh was deſired to examine 'young Launcelot. It was a long time 'before he found an opportunity; the 'ſquire always gave him the ſlip. At 'length the parſon catched him in bed 'of a morning, and, locking the door, 'to it they went tooth and nail. What 'paſſed betwixt them, the Lord in heaven knows; but, when the doctor 'came forth, he looked wild and haggard as if he had ſeen a ghoſt, his face 'as white as paper, and his lips trembling like an aſpen-leaf. "Parſon," 'ſaid the knight, "what is the matter?—how do'ſt find my ſon? I hope "he won't turn out a ninny, and diſgrace his family." The doctor, 'wiping the ſweat from his forehead, 'replied, with ſome heſitation, he could 'not tell—he hoped the beſt—the ſquire 'was, to be ſure, a very extraordinary 'young gentleman. But the father 'urging him to give an explicit anſwer, 'he frankly declared, that, in his opinion, the ſon would turn out either a 'mirror of wiſdom, or a monument of 'folly; for his genius and diſpoſition 'were altogether preternatural. The 'knight was ſorely vexed at this declaration, and ſignified his diſpleaſure, 'by ſaying the doctor, like a true 'prieſt, dealt in myſteries and oracles, 'that would admit of different and 'indeed contrary interpretations. He 'afterwards conſulted my father, who 'had ſerved as ſteward upon the eſtate 'for above thirty years, and acquired 'a conſiderable ſhare of his favour. "Will Clarke," ſaid he, with tears in 'his eyes, "what ſhall I do with this "unfortunate lad? I would to God he "had never been born; for I fear he "will bring my grey hairs with ſorrow "to the grave. When I am gone, he "will throw away the eſtate, and bring "himſelf to infamy and ruin by keep-

"ing company with rooks and beg-
"gars. O Will! I could forgive ex-
"travagance in a young man; but it
"breaks my heart to ſee my only ſon
"give ſuch repeated proofs of a mean
"ſpirit and ſordid diſpoſition!"

'Here the old gentleman ſhed a flood
'of tears, and not without ſome ſha-
'dow of reaſon. By this time Laun-
'celot was grown ſo reſerved to his fa-
'ther, that he ſeldom ſaw him, or any
'of his relations, except when he was
'in a manner forced to appear at table,
'and there his baſhfulneſs ſeemed every
'day to encreaſe. On the other hand,
'he had formed ſome very ſtrange con-
'nexions. Every morning he viſited
'the ſtable, where he not only conver-
'ſed with the grooms and helpers, but
'ſcraped acquaintance with the horſes:
'he fed his favourites with his own
'hand, ſtroaked, careſſed, and rode
'them by turns; till at laſt they grew
'ſo familiar, that, even when they were
'a-field at graſs, and ſaw him at a
'diſtance, they would toſs their manes,
'whinny like ſo many colts at ſight of
'the dam, and, galloping up to the place
'where he ſtood, ſmell him all over.

'You muſt know, that I myſelf,
'though a child, was his companion
'in all theſe excurſions. He took a
'liking to me on account of my being
'his god-ſon, and gave me more mo-
'ney than I knew what to do with;
'he had always plenty of caſh for the
'aſking, as my father was ordered to
'ſupply him liberally, the knight think-
'ing that a command of money might
'help to raiſe his thoughts to a proper
'conſideration of his own importance.
'He never could endure a common
'beggar, that was not either in a ſtate
'of infancy or of old age; but, in other
'reſpects, he made the guineas fly in
'ſuch a manner, as looked more like
'madneſs than generoſity. He had no
'communication with your rich yeo-
'men, but rather treated them and
'their families with ſtudied contempt,
'becauſe, forſooth, they pretended to
'aſſume the dreſs and manners of the
'gentry.

'They kept their footmen, their ſad-
'dle-horſes, and chaiſes: their wives
'and daughters appeared in their jewels,
'their ſilks, and their ſattins, their ne-
'gligees and trollopees; their clumſy
'ſhanks, like ſo many ſhins of beef,
'were caſed in ſilk hoſe and embroider-
'ed ſlippers; their raw red fingers,
'groſs as the pipes of a chamber-or-
'gan, which had been employed in
'milking the cows, in twirling the
'mop or churn-ſtaff, being adorned
'with diamonds, were taught to thrum
'the pandola, and even to touch the
'keys of the harpſichord; nay, in eve-
'ry village they kept a route, and ſet
'up an aſſembly; and in one place a
'hog-butcher was maſter of the cere-
'monies.

'I have heard Mr. Greaves ridicule
'them for their vanity and aukward
'imitation; and therefore, I believe,
'he avoided all concerns with them,
'even when they endeavoured to en-
'gage his attention. It was the lower
'ſort of people with whom he chiefly
'converſed, ſuch as ploughmen, ditch-
'ers, and other day-labourers. To
'every cottager in the pariſh he was a
'bounteous benefactor. He was, in
'the literal ſenſe of the word, a careful
'overſeer of the poor; for he went
'from houſe to houſe, induſtriouſly
'enquiring into the diſtreſſes of the
'people. He repaired their huts, cloath-
'ed their backs, filled their bellies,
'and ſupplied them with neceſſaries for
'exerciſing their induſtry and different
'occupations.

'I'll give you one inſtance now, as a
'ſpecimen of his character. He and
'I, ſtrolling one day on the ſide of a
'common, ſaw two boys picking hips
'and haws from the hedges; one ſeem-
'ed to be about five, and the other a
'year older; they were both barefoot
'and ragged, but at the ſame time fat,
'fair, and in good condition. "Who
"do you belong to?" ſaid Mr. Greaves.
"To Mary Stile," replied the oldeſt,
"the widow that rents one of them
"houſen."—"And how do'ſt live,
"my boy? Thou lookeſt freſh and
"jolly;" reſumed the ſquire. "Lived
"well enough till yeſterday," anſwer-
'ed the child. "And pray what hap-
"pened yeſterday, my boy?" conti-
'nued Mr. Greaves. "Happened!"
'ſaid he, "why, mammy had a coo-
"ple of little Welch keawes, that gi'en
"milk enough to fill all our bellies;
"mammy's and mine, and Dick's here,
"and my two little ſiſters at hoam;
"yeſterday the ſquire ſeized the keawes
"for rent, God rot'un! Mammy's
"gone to bed ſick and ſulky; my two
"ſiſters be crying at hoam vor vood;
"and Dick and I be come hither to
"pick haws and bullies."

'My

'My godfather's face grew red as 'ſcarlet; he took one of the children in 'either hand, and leading them to-'wards the houſe, found Sir Everhard 'talking with my father before the gate. 'Inſtead of avoiding the old gentleman, 'as uſual, he bruſhed up to him with a 'ſpirit he had never ſhewn before; and 'preſenting the two ragged boys, "Surely, Sir," ſaid he, "you will not "countenance that there ruffian, your "ſteward, in oppreſſing the widow and "the fatherleſs? On pretence of diſtrain-"ing for the rent of a cottage, he has "robbed the mother of theſe and other "poor infant orphans of two cows, "which afforded them their whole ſuſ-"tenance. Shall you be concerned in "tearing the hard-earned morſel from "the mouth of indigence? Shall your "name, which has been ſo long men-"tioned as a bleſſing, be now detetted "as a curſe by the poor, the helpleſs "and forlorn? The father of theſe "babes was once your game keeper, "who died of a conſumption caught "in your ſervice. You ſee they are "almoſt naked—I found them pluck-"ing haws and ſloes, in order to ap-"peaſe their hunger. The wretched "mother is ſtarving in a cold cottage, "diſtracted with the cries of other two "infants, clamourous for food; and "while her heart is burſting with an-"guiſh and deſpair, ſhe invokes Hea-"ven to avenge the widow's cauſe up-"on the head of her unrelenting land-"lord!"

'This unexpected addreſs brought 'tears into the eyes of the good old 'gentleman. "Will Clarke," ſaid he to my father, "how durſt you abuſe "my authority at this rate? You who "know I have been always a pro-"tector, not an oppreſſor of the needy "and unfortunate. I charge you, go "immediately and comfort this poor "woman with immediate relief; in-"ſtead of her own cows, let her have "two of the beſt milch cows of my "dairy; they ſhall graze in my parks "in ſummer, and be foddered with my "hay in winter.—She ſhall ſit rent-free "for life; and I will take care of theſe "her poor orphans."

'This was a very affecting ſcene. 'Mr. Launcelot took his father's hand 'and kiſſed it, while the tears ran down 'his cheeks; and Sir Everhard em-'braced his ſon with great tenderneſs, 'crying, "My dear boy! God be "praiſed for having given you ſuch a "feeling heart." My father himſelf 'was moved, thof a practitioner of 'the law, and conſequently uſed to 'diſtreſſes. He declared, that he had 'given no directions to diſtrain; and 'that the bailiff muſt have done it by 'his own authority. "If that be the "caſe," ſaid the young ſquire, "let "the inhuman raſcal be turned out of "our ſervice."

'Well, gemmen, all the children 'were immediately cloathed and fed, 'and the poor widow had well-nigh 'run diſtracted with joy. The old 'knight, being of a humane temper 'himſelf, was pleaſed to ſee ſuch proofs 'of his ſon's generoſity: he was not 'angry at his ſpending his money, but 'at ſquandering away his time among 'the dregs of the people. For you 'muſt know, he not only made matches, 'portioned poor maidens, and ſet up 'young couples that came together 'without money; but he mingled in 'every ruſtick diverſion, and bore away 'the prize in every conteſt. He excelled 'every ſwain of that diſtrict in feats of 'ſtrength and activity; in leaping, run-'ning, wreſtling, cricket, cudgel-play-'ing, and pitching the bar; and was 'confeſſed to be, out of ſight, the beſt 'dancer at all wakes and holidays. 'Happy was the country-girl who could 'engage the young ſquire as her part-'ner! To be ſure it was a comely ſight 'for to ſee as how the buxom country-'laſſes, freſh and fragrant, and bluſh-'ing like the roſe, in their beſt apparel 'dight, their white hoſe, and clean 'ſhort dimity petticoats, their gaudy 'gowns of printed cotton, their top-'knots and ſtomachers, bedizened with 'bunches of ribbands of various colours, 'green, pink, and yellow; to ſee them 'crowned with garlands, and aſſembled 'on May-day, to dance before Squire 'Launcelot, as he made his morning's 'progreſs through the village. Then 'all the young peaſants made their ap-'pearance with cockades, ſuited to the 'fancies of their ſeveral ſweet-hearts, 'and boughs of flowering hawthorn. 'The children ſported about like flocks 'of friſking lambs, or the young fry 'ſwarming under the ſunny bank of 'ſome meandering river. The old men 'and women, in their holiday gar-'ments, ſtood at their doors to receive

'their benefactor, and poured forth 'bleſſings on him as he paſſed; the chil-'dren welcomed him with their ſhrill 'ſhouts; the damſels with ſongs of 'praiſe; and the young men with the 'pipe and tabor, marched before him 'to the May-pole, which was bedecked 'with flowers and bloom. There the 'rural dance began; a plentiful dinner, 'with oceans of good liquor, was be-'ſpoke at the White Hart. The whole 'village was regaled at the ſquire's ex-'pence; and both the day and the 'night was ſpent in mirth and plea-'ſure.

'Lord help you! he could not reſt if 'he thought there was an aching heart 'in the whole pariſh. Every paultry 'cottage was in a little time converted 'into a pretty, ſnug, comfortable ha-'bitation, with a wooden porch at the 'door, glaſs caſements in the windows, 'and a little garden behind, well ſtored 'with greens, roots, and ſallads. In 'a word, the poor's rate was reduced 'to a mere trifle; and one would have 'thought the golden age was revived 'in Yorkſhire. But, as I told you be-'fore, the old knight could not bear 'to ſee his only ſon ſo wholly attached 'to theſe lowly pleaſures, while he in-'duſtriouſly ſhunned all opportunities 'of appearing in that ſuperior ſphere 'to which he was deſigned by nature 'and by fortune. He imputed his 'conduct to meanneſs of ſpirit, and ad-'viſed with my father touching the pro-'pereſt expedient to wean his affections 'from ſuch low-born purſuits. My 'father counſelled him to ſend the 'young gentleman up to London, to 'be entered as a ſtudent in the Temple, 'and recommended to the ſuperinten-'dance of ſome perſon who knew the 'town, and might engage him inſenſi-'bly in ſuch amuſements and connex-'ions, as would ſoon lift his ideas 'above the humble objects on which 'they had been hitherto employed. 'This advice appeared ſo ſalutary, that 'it was followed without the leaſt heſi-'tation. The young ſquire himſelf was 'perfectly well ſatisfied with the propo-'ſal, and in a few days ſet out for the 'great city; but there was not a dry 'eye in the pariſh at his departure, al-'though he prevailed upon his father to 'pay, in his abſence, all the penſions he 'had granted to thoſe who could not 'live on the fruit of their own induſ-'try. In what manner he ſpent his 'time in London, it is none of my bu-'ſineſs to enquire; thof I know pretty 'well what kind of lives are led by gem-'men of your inns of court. I myſelf once 'belonged to Serjeant's Inn, and was 'perhaps as good a wit and a critick as 'any Templar of them all. Nay, as 'for that matter, thof I deſpiſe vanity, 'I can aver with a ſafe conſcience, that 'I had once the honour to belong to 'the ſociety called The Town; we were 'all of us attorneys clerks, gemmen, 'and had our meetings at an ale-houſe 'in Butcher Row, where we regulated 'the diverſions of the theatre.

'But to return from this digreſſion. 'Sir Everhard Greaves did not ſeem to 'be very well pleaſed with the conduct 'of his ſon at London. He got notice 'of ſome irregularities and ſcrapes into 'which he had fallen; and the ſquire 'ſeldom wrote to his father, except to 'draw upon him for money; which he 'did ſo faſt, that in eighteen months 'the old gemman loſt all patience.

'At this period Squire Darnel chanc-'ed to die, leaving an only daughter, 'a minor, heireſs of three thouſand a 'year, under the guardianſhip of her 'uncle, Anthony, whoſe brutal cha-'racter all the world knows. The 'breath was no ſooner out of his bro-'ther's body; than he reſolved, if poſ-'ſible, to ſucceed him in parliament as 'repreſentative for the borough of Aſh-'enton. Now you muſt know, that 'this borough had been for many years 'a bone of contention between the fa-'milies of Greaves and Darnel; and 'at length the difference was compro-'miſed by the interpoſition of friends, 'on condition that Sir Everhard and 'Squire Darnel ſhould alternately re-'preſent the place in parliament. They 'agreed to this compromiſe for their 'mutual convenience; but they were 'never heartily reconciled. Their po-'litical principles did not tally; and 'their wives looked upon each other as 'rivals in fortune and magnificence; 'ſo that there was no intercourſe be-'tween them, thof they lived in the 'ſame neighbourhood. On the con-'trary, in all diſputes, they conſtantly 'headed the oppoſite parties. Sir Ever-'hard underſtanding that Anthony 'Darnel had begun to canvaſs, and 'was putting every iron in the fire, in 'violation and contempt of the *pactum*

'*familiæ*

'*familiæ* before-mentioned, fell into a violent paſſion, that brought on a ſevere fit of the gout, by which he was diſabled from giving perſonal attention to his own intereſt. My father, indeed, employed all his diligence and addreſs; and ſpared neither money, time, nor conſtitution; till at length he drank himſelf into a conſumption, which was the death of him. But, after all, there is a great difference between a ſteward and a principal. Mr. Darnel attended in *propria perſona*, flattered and careſſed the women, feaſted the electors, hired mobs, made proceſſions, and ſcattered about his money in ſuch a manner, that our friends durſt hardly ſhew their heads in publick.

'At this very criſis our young ſquire, to whom his father had written an account of the tranſaction, arrived unexpectedly at Greaveſbury Hall, and had a long private conference with Sir Everhard. The news of his return ſpread like wild-fire through all that part of the country; bon-fires were made, and the bells ſet a ringing in ſeveral towns and ſteeples; and next morning above ſeven hundred people were aſſembled at the gate, with muſick, flags and ſtreamers, to welcome their young ſquire, and accompany him to the borough of Aſhenton. He ſet out on foot with this retinue, and entered one end of the town juſt as Mr. Darnel's mob had come in at the other. Both arrived about the ſame time at the market-place; but Mr. Darnel, mounting firſt into the balcony of the town-houſe, made a long ſpeech to the people in favour of his own pretenſions, not without ſome invidious reflections glanced at Sir Everhard, his competitor.

'We did not much mind the acclamations of his party, which we knew had been hired for the purpoſe; but we were in ſome pain for Mr. Greaves, who had not been uſed to ſpeak in publick. He took his turn, however, in the balcony; and, uncovering his head, bowed all round with the moſt engaging courteſy. He was dreſſed in a green frock trimmed with gold; and his own dark hair flowed about his ears in natural curls, while his face was overſpread with a bluſh, that improved the glow of youth to a deeper crimſon, and, I dare ſay, ſet many a female heart a palpitating. When he made his firſt appearance, there was juſt ſuch a humming and clapping of hands as you may have heard when the celebrated Garrick comes upon the ſtage in King Lear, or King Richard, or any other top character. But how agreeably were we diſappointed, when our young gentleman made ſuch an oration as would not have diſgraced a Pitt, an Egmont, or a Murray! While he ſpoke, all was huſhed in admiration and attention—you could almoſt have heard a feather drop to the ground. It would have charmed you to hear with what modeſty he recounted the ſervices which his father and grandfather had done to the corporation; with what eloquence he expatiated upon the ſhameful infraction of the treaty ſubſiſting between the two families; and with what keen and ſpirited ſtrokes of ſatire he retorted the ſarcaſms of Darnel.

'He no ſooner concluded his harangue, than there was ſuch a burſt of applauſe, as ſeemed to rend the very ſky. Our muſick immediately ſtruck up; our people advanced with their enſigns, and, as every man had a good cudgel, broken heads would have enſued, had not Mr. Darnel and his party thought proper to retreat with uncommon diſpatch. He never offered to make another publick entrance, as he ſaw the torrent ran ſo violently againſt him; but ſat down with his loſs, and withdrew his oppoſition, though at bottom extremely mortified and incenſed. Sir Everhard was unanimouſly elected, and appeared to be the happieſt man upon earth; for, beſides the pleaſure ariſing from his victory over this competitor, he was now fully ſatisfied that his ſon, inſtead of diſgracing, would do honour to his family. It would have moved a heart of ſtone to ſee with what a tender tranſport of paternal joy he received his dear Launcelot, after having heard of his deportment and ſucceſs at Aſhenton; where, by the bye, he gave a ball to the ladies, and diſplayed as much elegance and politeneſs as if he had been bred at the court of Verſailles.

'This joyous ſeaſon was of ſhort duration; in a little time all the happineſs

'pineſs of the family was overcaſt by a 'ſad incident, which hath left ſuch an 'unfortunate impreſſion upon the mind 'of the young gentleman, as, I am 'afraid, will never be effaced. Mr. 'Darnel's neice and ward, the great 'heireſs, whoſe name is Aurelia, was 'the moſt celebrated beauty of the 'whole country; if I ſaid the whole 'kingdom, or indeed all Europe, per-'haps I ſhould barely do her juſtice. 'I don't pretend to be a limner, gem-'men; nor does it become me to deli-'neate ſuch excellence; but ſurely I 'may preſume to repeat from the play,

"Oh! ſhe is all that painting can expreſs,
"Or youthful poets fancy when they love!".

'At that time ſhe might be about 'ſeventeen; tall and fair, and ſo ex-'quiſitely ſhaped—you may talk of 'your Venus de Medicis, your Diana's, 'your Nymphs and Galatea's; but if 'Praxiteles, and Roubilliac, and Wil-'ton, were to lay their heads together, 'in order to make a compleat pattern 'of beauty, they would hardly reach 'her model of perfection.—As for 'complexion, poets will talk of blend-'ing the lily with the roſe; and bring 'in a parcel of ſimilies of cowſlips, car-'nations, pinks, and daiſies.—There's 'Dolly, now, has got a very good com-'plexion—indeed, ſhe's the very pic-'ture of health and innocence—you are, 'indeed, my pretty laſs—but, *parva 'componere magnis*.—Miſs Darnel is 'all amazing beauty, delicacy, and 'dignity! Then the ſoftneſs and ex-'preſſion of her fine blue eyes; her 'pouting lips of coral hue; her neck, 'that riſes like a tower of poliſhed ala-'baſter between two mounts of ſnow.—'I tell you what, gemmen, it don't ſig-'nify talking; if e'er a one of you 'was to meet this young lady alone, in 'the midſt of a heath or common, or 'any unfrequented place, he would 'down on his knees, and think he kneel-'ed before ſome ſupernatural being. 'I'll tell you more: ſhe not only re-'ſembles an angel in beauty, but a ſaint 'in goodneſs, and an hermit in humi-'lity—ſo void of all pride and affec-'tation; ſo ſoft, and ſweet, and affa-'ble, and humane!—Lord! I could tell 'ſuch inſtances of her charity!

'Sure enough, ſhe and Sir Launce-'lot were formed by nature for each 'other; howſoever, the cruel hand of 'fortune hath intervened, and ſevered 'them for ever. Every ſoul that knew 'them both, ſaid it was a thouſand 'pities but they ſhould come together, 'and extinguiſh, in their happy union, 'the mutual animoſity of the two fami-'lies, which had ſo often embroiled 'the whole neighbourhood. Nothing 'was heard but the praiſes of Miſs 'Aurelia Darnel and Mr. Launcelot 'Greaves; and no doubt the parties 'were prepoſſeſſed, by this applauſe, in 'favour of each other. At length, 'Mr. Greaves went one Sunday to her 'pariſh-church; but, though the great-'er part of the congregation watched 'their looks, they could not perceive 'that ſhe took the leaſt notice of 'him, or that he ſeemed to be ſtruck 'with her appearance. He afterwards 'had an opportunity of ſeeing her 'more at leiſure, at the York aſſembly, 'during the races; but this opportu-'nity was productive of no good ef-'fect, becauſe he had that ſame day 'quarrelled with her uncle on the turf.

'An old grudge, you know, gem-'men, is ſoon inflamed to a freſh rup-'ture. It was thought Mr. Darnel 'came on purpoſe to ſhew his reſent-'ment. They differed about a bet 'upon Miſs Cleverlegs; and, in the 'courſe of the diſpute, Mr. Darnel 'called him a petulant boy. The young 'ſquire, who was as haſty as gunpow-'der, told him he was man enough to 'chaſtiſe him for his inſolence; and 'would do it on the ſpot, if he thought 'it would not interrupt the diverſion. 'In all probability they would have 'come to points immediately, had not 'the gentlemen interpoſed; ſo that no-'thing farther paſſed but abundance of 'foul language on the part of Mr. 'Anthony, and a repeated defiance to 'ſingle combat.

'Mr. Greaves, making a low bow, 'retired from the field; and in the 'evening danced at the aſſembly with 'a young lady from the biſhoprick, 'ſeemingly in good temper and ſpirits, 'without having any words with Mr. 'Darnel, who was alſo preſent. But 'in the morning he viſited that proud 'neighbour betimes; and they had al-'moſt reached a grove of trees on the 'north ſide of the town, when they were 'ſuddenly overtaken by half a dozen 'gentlemen, who had watched their mo-

'tions;

'tions. It was in vain for them to diſ-
'ſemble their deſign, which could not
'now take effect. They gave up their
'piſtols, and a reconciliation was patch-
'ed up by the preſſing remonſtrances of
'their common friends; but Mr. Dar-
'nel's hatred ſtill rankled at bottom,
'and ſoon broke out in the ſequel.
'About three months after this tranſ-
'action, his niece Aurelia, with her
'mother, having been to viſit a lady in
'the chariot; the horſes being young,
'and not uſed to the traces, were ſtartled
'at the braying of a jack-aſs on the
'common; and taking fright, ran away
'with the carriage like lightning. The
'coachman was thrown from the box,
'and the ladies ſcreamed piteouſly for
'help. Mr. Greaves chanced to be a-
'horſeback on the other ſide of an in-
'cloſure, when he heard their ſhrieks;
'and riding up to the hedge, knew
'the chariot, and ſaw their diſaſter.
'The horſes were then running full
'ſpeed in ſuch a direction, as to drive
'head-long over a precipice into a
'ſtone-quarry, where they and the cha-
'riot, and the ladies, muſt be daſhed in
'pieces.

'You may conceive, gemmen, what
'his thoughts were when he ſaw ſuch
'a fine young lady, in the flower of her
'age, juſt plunging into eternity; when
'he ſaw the lovely Aurelia on the
'brink of being precipitated among
'rocks, where her delicate limbs
'muſt be mangled and tore aſunder;
'when he perceived, that before he
'could ride round by the gate, the tra-
'gedy would be finiſhed. The fence
'was ſo thick and high, flanked with a
'broad ditch on the outſide, that he
'could not hope to clear it, although
'he was mounted on Scipio, bred out
'of Miſs Cowſlip, the fire Muley, and
'his grandſire the famous Arabian
'Muſtapha. Scipio was bred by my
'father, who would not have taken a
'hundred guineas for him from any
'other perſon but the young ſquire—
'Indeed, I have heard my poor father
'ſay—'

By this time Ferret's impatience was become ſo outrageous, that he exclaimed in a furious tone, 'Damn your fa-
'ther! and his horſe, and his colt into
'the bargain!'

Tom made no reply; but began to ſtrip with great expedition. Captain Crowe was ſo choaked with paſſion, that he could utter nothing but diſjointed ſentences: he roſe from his ſeat, brandiſhed his horſe-whip, and ſeizing his nephew by the collar, cried, 'Odd's
'heartlikins! ſirrah, I have a good
'mind—Devil fire your running tackle,
'you land-lubber! can't you ſteer with-
'out all this tacking hither and thi-
'ther, and the Lord knows whither?—
''Noint my block! I'd give thee a rope's
'end for thy ſupper, if it wan't—'

Dolly had conceived a ſneaking kindneſs for the young lawyer; and thinking him in danger of being roughly handled, flew to his relief. She twiſted her hand in Crowe's neckcloth without ceremony, crying, 'Sha't then, I tell
'thee, old coger. Who kears a vig
'for thy vooliſh trantrums?'

While Crowe looked black in the face, and ran the riſque of ſtrangulation under the gripe of this Amazon, Mr. Clarke having diſengaged himſelf of his hat, wig, coat, and waiſtcoat, advanced, in an elegant attitude of manual offence, towards the miſanthrope; who ſnatched up a gridiron from the chimney-corner, and Diſcord ſeemed to clap her ſooty wings in expectation of battle. But as the reader may have more than once already curſed the unconſcionable length of this chapter, we muſt poſtpone to the next opportunity the incidents that ſucceeded this denunciation of war.

CHAP. IV.

IN WHICH IT APPEARS THAT THE KNIGHT, WHEN HEARTILY SET IN FOR SLEEPING, WAS NOT EASILY DISTURBED.

IN all probability the kitchen of the Black Lion, from a domeſtick temple of ſociety and good fellowſhip, would have been converted into a ſcene or ſtage of ſanguinary diſpute, had not Pallas or Diſcretion interpoſed in the perſon of Mr. Fillet; and, with the aſſiſtance of the oſtler, diſarmed the combatants, not only of their arms, but alſo of their reſentment.

The impetuoſity of Mr. Clarke was a little checked at the ſight of the gridiron, which Ferret brandiſhed with uncommon dexterity; a circumſtance from whence the company were, upon reflexion, induced to believe, that before he plunged into the ſea of politics, he had occaſionally figured in the character

ter of that facetious droll, who accompanies your itinerant phyſicians, under the familiar appellation of Merry-Andrew, or Jack-Pudding, and on a wooden ſtage entertains the populace with a ſolo on the ſalt-box, or a ſonnata on the tongs and gridiron. Be that as it may, the young lawyer ſeemed to be a little diſcompoſed at the glancing of this extraordinary weapon of offence, which the fair hands of Dolly had ſcoured until it ſhone as bright as the ſhield of Achilles; or as the emblem of good old Engliſh fare, which hangs by a red ribband round the neck of that thrice-honoured ſage's head, in velvet bonnet caſed, who preſides by rotation at the genial board, diſtinguiſhed by the title of the Beef Stake Club: where the delicate rumps irreſiſtibly attract the ſtranger's eye; and, while they ſeem to cry, 'Come cut me—come cut me!' conſtrain, by wondrous ſympathy, each mouth to overflow: where the obliging and humorous Jemmy B——t, the gentle Billy H——d, replete with human kindneſs; and the generous Johnny B——d, reſpected and beloved by all the world, attend as the prieſts and miniſters of mirth, good cheer, and jollity, and aſſiſt with culinary art the raw, unpractiſed, aukward gueſt.

But, to return from this digreſſive ſimile; the oſtler no ſooner ſtepped between thoſe menacing antagoniſts, than Tom Clarke very quietly reſumed his cloaths, and Mr. Ferret reſigned the gridiron without farther queſtion. The doctor did not find it quite ſo eaſy to releaſe the throat of captain Crowe from the maſculine graſp of the virago Dolly, whoſe fingers could not be diſengaged until the honeſt ſeaman was almoſt at the laſt gaſp. After ſome pauſe, during which he panted for breath, and untied his neckcloth, 'Damn thee for a 'brimſtone galley,' cried he; 'I was 'never ſo grappled withal ſince I knew 'a card from a compaſs.—Adzooks! 'the jade has ſo taughtened my rigging, 'd'ye ſee, that I—Snatch my bowlines, 'if I come athwart thy hawſer, I'll 'turn thy keel upwards—or mayhap 'ſet thee a-driving under thy bare 'poles—I will—I will, you hell-fire, 'ſaucy—I will.'

Dolly made no reply; but ſeeing Mr. Clarke ſit down again with great compoſure, took her ſtation likewiſe at the oppoſite ſide of the apartment. Then Mr. Fillet requeſted the lawyer to proceed with his ſtory; which, after three hems, he accordingly proſecuted in theſe words.

'I told you, gemmen, that Mr. 'Greaves was mounted on Scipio, 'when he ſaw Miſs Darnel and her 'mother in danger of being hurried 'over a precipice. Without reflecting 'a moment, he gave Scipio the ſpur, 'and at one ſpring he cleared five and 'twenty feet, over hedge and ditch, 'and every obſtruction. Then he rode 'full ſpeed, in order to turn the coach-'horſes; and finding them quite wild and 'furious, endeavoured to drive againſt 'the counter of the hither horſe, which 'he miſſed, and ſtaked poor Scipio on 'the pole of the coach. The ſhock 'was ſo great, that the coach-horſes 'made a full ſtop within ten yards of 'the quarry; and Mr. Greaves was 'thrown forwards towards the coach-'box, which mounting with admirable 'dexterity, he ſeized the reins before the 'horſes could recover of their fright. 'At that inſtant the coachman came 'running up, and looſed them from the 'traces with the utmoſt diſpatch. Mr. 'Greaves had now time to give his at-'tention to the ladies, who were well-'nigh diſtracted with fear. He no 'ſooner opened the chariot-door, than 'Aurelia, with a wildneſs of look, 'ſprung into his arms; and, claſping 'him round the neck, fainted away. 'I leave you to gueſs, gemmen, what 'were his feelings at this inſtant. The 'mother was not ſo diſcompoſed, but 'that ſhe could contribute to the reco-'very of her daughter, whom the young 'ſquire ſtill ſupported in his embrace. 'At length ſhe retrieved the uſe of her 'ſenſes; and perceiving the ſituation 'in which ſhe was, the blood reviſited 'her face with a redoubled glow, while 'ſhe deſired him to ſet her down upon 'the turf.

'Mrs. Darnel, far from being ſhy 'or reſerved in her compliments of 'acknowledgments, kiſſed Mr. Laun-'celot without ceremony, the tears of 'gratitude running down her cheeks. 'She called him her dear ſon, her ge-'nerous deliverer, who, at the hazard 'of his own life, had ſaved her and her 'child from the moſt diſmal fate that 'could be imagined.

'Mr. Greaves was ſo much tran-'ſported on this occaſion, that he could

'not

'not help diſcloſing a paſſion which 'he had hitherto induſtriouſly con- 'cealed. "What I have done," ſaid 'he, "was but a common office of "humanity, which I would have per- "formed for any of my fellow-crea- "tures; but, for the preſervation of "Miſs Aurelia Darnel, I would at "any time ſacrifice my life with plea- "ſure." The young lady did not 'hear this declaration unmoved; her 'face was again flushed, and her eyes 'ſparkled with pleaſure; nor was the 'youth's confeſſion diſagreeable to the 'good lady her mother, who at one 'glance perceived the advantages of 'ſuch an union between the two fa- 'milies.

'Mr. Greaves propoſed to ſend the 'coachman to his father's ſtable for a 'pair of ſober horſes, that could be 'depended upon, to draw the ladies 'home to their own habitation; but they 'declined the offer, and choſe to walk, 'as the diſtance was not great. He 'then inſiſted upon his being their 'conductor; and each taking him 'under the arm, he ſupported them to 'their own gate, where ſuch an appa- 'rition filled all the domeſticks with 'aſtoniſhment. Mrs. Darnel, taking 'him by the hand, led him into the 'room, where ſhe welcomed him with 'another affectionate embrace, and in- 'dulged him with an ambroſial kiſs of 'Aurelia; ſaying, "But for you, we "had both been by this time in eter- "nity. Sure it was Heaven that ſent "you as an angel to our aſſiſtance!" 'She kindly enquired if he had himſelf 'ſuſtained any damage in adminiſtering 'that deſperate remedy to which they 'owed their lives. She entertained 'him with a ſmall collation; and, in 'the courſe of the converſation, la- 'mented the animoſity which had ſo 'long divided two neighbouring fa- 'milies of ſuch influence and character. 'He was not ſlow in ſignifying his ap- 'probation of her remarks, and ex- 'preſſing the moſt eager deſire of ſeeing 'all thoſe unhappy differences removed: 'in a word, they parted with mutual 'ſatisfaction.

'Juſt as he advanced from the out- 'ward gate, on his return to Greaveſ- 'bury-Hall, he was met by Anthony 'Darnel on horſeback; who riding up 'to him with marks of ſurprize and 'reſentment, ſaluted him with, "Your "ſervant, Sir.—Have you any com- "mands for me?" The other replying 'with an air of indifference, "None at "all;" Mr. Darnel aſked what had 'procured him the honour of a viſit. 'The young gentleman perceiving, by 'the manner in which he ſpoke, that 'the old quarrel was not yet extin- 'guiſhed, anſwered, with equal diſ- 'dain, that the viſit was not intended 'for him; and that if he wanted to 'know the cauſe of it, he might in- 'form himſelf by his own ſervants. "So I ſhall," cried the uncle of Au- 'relia; "and perhaps let you know "my ſentiments of the matter."—— "Hereafter as it may be!" ſaid the 'youth; who, turning out of the ave- 'nue, walked home, and made his fa- 'ther acquainted with the particulars of 'this adventure.

'The old gentleman chid him for 'his raſhneſs, but ſeemed pleaſed with 'the ſucceſs of his attempt; and ſtill 'more ſo, when he underſtood his ſen- 'timents of Aurelia, and the deport- 'ment of the ladies.

'Next day the ſon ſent over a ſer- 'vant with a compliment, to enquire 'about their health; and the meſſen- 'ger, being ſeen by Mr. Darnel, was 'told that the ladies were indiſpoſed, 'and did not chuſe to be troubled with 'meſſages. The mother was really 'ſeized with a fever, produced by the 'agitation of her ſpirits, which every 'day became more and more violent, 'until the phyſicians deſpaired of her 'life. Believing that her end ap- 'proached, ſhe ſent a truſty ſervant to 'Mr. Greaves, deſiring that ſhe might 'ſee him without delay; and he imme- 'diately ſet out with the meſſenger, 'who introduced him in the dark.

'He found the old lady in bed, al- 'moſt exhauſted; and the fair Aurelia 'ſitting by her, overwhelmed with 'grief; her lovely hair in the utmoſt diſ- 'order, and her charming eyes enflamed 'with weeping. The good lady beck- 'oning Mr. Launcelot to approach, 'and directing all the attendants to 'quit the room, except a favourite 'maid, from whom I learned the ſtory, 'ſhe took him by the hand, and fixing 'her eyes upon him with all the fond- 'neſs of a mother, ſhed ſome tears in 'ſilence, while the ſame marks of ſor- 'row trickled down his cheeks. After 'this affecting pauſe, "My dear ſon,"

'ſaid ſhe, "Oh! that I could have lived "to ſee you ſo indeed! You find me "haſtening to the goal of life."—Here 'the tender hearted Aurelia, being un-'able to contain herſelf longer, broke 'out into a violent paſſion of grief, and 'wept aloud. The mother, waiting 'patiently till ſhe had thus given vent 'to her anguiſh, calmly entreated her 'to reſign herſelf ſubmiſſively to the 'will of Heaven: then turning to Mr. 'Launcelot, "I had indulged," ſaid 'ſhe, "a fond hope of ſeeing you allied "to my family.—This is no time for "me to inſiſt upon the ceremonies and "forms of a vain world.——Aurelia "looks upon you with the eyes of "tender prepoſſeſſion." No ſooner 'had ſhe pronounced theſe words, than 'he threw himſelf on his knees before 'the young lady, and preſſing her 'hand to his lips, breathed the ſofteſt 'expreſſions which the moſt delicate 'love could ſuggeſt. "I know," re-'ſumed the mother, "that your paſſion "is mutually ſincere; and I ſhould die "ſatisfied, if I thought your union "would not be oppoſed; but that vio-"lent man, my brother-in-law, who "is Aurelia's ſole guardian, will "thwart her wiſhes with every ob-"ſtacle that brutal reſentment and "implacable malice can contrive. Mr. "Greaves, I have long admired your "virtues, and am confident that I can "depend upon your honour.—You "ſhall give me your word that, when "I am gone, you will take no ſteps in "this affair without the concurrence "of your father; and endeavour, by "all fair and honourable means, to "vanquiſh the prejudices and obtain "the conſent of her uncle: the reſt we "muſt leave to the diſpenſation of Pro-"vidence."

'The ſquire promiſed, in the moſt 'ſolemn and fervent manner, to obey 'all her injunctions, as the laſt dictates 'of a parent whom he ſhould never 'ceaſe to honour. Then ſhe favoured 'them both with a great deal of ſalu-'tary advice touching their conduct 'before and after marriage; and pre-'ſented him with a ring, as a memorial 'of her affection. At the ſame time he 'pulled another off his finger, and 'made a tender of it as a pledge of his 'love to Aurelia, whom her mother 'permitted to receive this token. Fi-'nally, he took a laſt farewel of the 'good matron, and returned to his fa-'ther with the particulars of this inter-'view.

'In two days Mrs. Darnel departed 'this life; and Aurelia was removed to 'the houſe of a relation, where her 'grief had like to have proved fatal to 'her conſtitution.

'In the mean time, the mother was 'no ſooner committed to the earth, than 'Mr. Greaves, mindful of her exhor-'tations, began to take meaſures for a 'reconciliation with the guardian. He 'engaged ſeveral gentlemen to inter-'poſe their good offices, but they al-'ways met with the moſt mortifying 'repulſes; and at laſt Anthony Darnel 'declared that his hatred to the houſe 'of Greaves was hereditary, habitual, 'and unconquerable. He ſwore he 'would ſpend his heart's blood to per-'petuate the quarrel; and that, ſooner 'than his niece ſhould match with 'young Launcelot, he would ſacrifice 'her with his own hand.

'The young gentleman, finding his 'prejudice ſo rancorous and invincible, 'left off making any farther advances; 'and, ſince he found it impoſſible to 'obtain his conſent, reſolved to culti-'vate the good graces of Aurelia, and 'wed her in deſpite of her implacable 'guardian. He found means to eſta-'bliſh a literary correſpondence with 'her as ſoon as her grief was a little 'abated, and even to effect an inter-'view after her return to her own 'houſe. But he ſoon had reaſon to re-'pent of this indulgence; the uncle 'entertained ſpies upon the young lady, 'who gave him an account of this meet-'ing; in conſequence of which ſhe was 'ſuddenly hurried to ſome diſtant part 'of the country which we never could 'diſcover.

'It was then we thought Mr. Laun-'celot a little diſordered in his brain, 'his grief was ſo wild, and his paſſion ſo 'impetuous. He refuſed all ſuſtenance; 'neglected his perſon; renounced his 'amuſements; rode out in the rain, 'ſometimes bare-headed; ſtrolled about 'the fields all night; and became ſo 'peeviſh, that none of the domeſticks 'durſt ſpeak to him without the ha-'zard of broken bones. Having played 'theſe pranks for about three weeks, 'to the unſpeakable chagrin of his fa-'ther, and the aſtoniſhment of all who 'knew him, he ſuddenly grew calm,

'and

'and his good-humour returned. But 'this, as your ſea-faring people ſay, 'was a deceitful calm, that ſoon uſhered 'in a dreadful ſtorm.

'He had long ſought an opportunity 'to tamper with ſome of Mr. Darnel's 'ſervants, who might inform him of 'the place where Aurelia was con-'fined; but there was not one about 'the family who could give him that 'ſatisfaction; for the perſons who ac-'companied her remained as a watch 'upon her motions, and none of the 'other domeſticks were privy to the 'tranſaction. All attempts proving 'fruitleſs, he could no longer reſtrain 'his impatience; but throwing himſelf 'in the way of the uncle, upbraided 'him in ſuch harſh terms, that a for-'mal challenge enſued. They agreed 'to decide their difference without wit-'neſſes; and one morning, before ſun-'riſe, met on that very common where 'Mr. Greaves had ſaved the life of 'Aurelia. The firſt piſtol was fired 'on each ſide without any effect; but 'Mr. Darnel's ſecond wounded the 'young ſquire in the flank; neverthe-'leſs having a piſtol in reſerve, he de-'ſired his antagoniſt to aſk his life. 'The other, inſtead of ſubmitting, 'drew his ſword; and Mr. Greaves, 'firing his piece into the air, followed 'his example. The conteſt then be-'came very hot, though of ſhort conti-'nuance. Darnel being diſarmed at 'the firſt onſet, our young ſquire gave 'him back his ſword, which he was 'baſe enough to uſe a ſecond time 'againſt his conqueror. Such an in-'ſtance of repeated ingratitude and 'brutal ferocity diveſted Mr. Greaves 'of his temper and forbearance. He 'attacked Mr. Anthony with great 'fury, and at the firſt lounge ran him up 'to the hilt; at the ſame time ſeizing 'with his left-hand the ſhell of his 'enemy's ſword, which he broke in 'diſdain. Mr. Darnel having fallen, 'the other immediately mounted his 'horſe, which he had tied to a tree be-'fore the engagement; and riding full 'ſpeed to Aſhenton, ſent a ſurgeon to 'Anthony's aſſiſtance. He afterwards 'ingenuouſly confeſſed all theſe parti-'culars to his father, who was over-'whelmed with conſternation, for the 'wounds of Darnel were judged mor-'tal; and, as no perſon had ſeen the 'particulars of the duel, Mr. Laun-'celot might have been convicted of 'murder.

'On theſe conſiderations, before a 'warrant could be ſerved upon him, 'the old knight, by dint of the moſt 'eager intreaties, accompanied with 'marks of horror and deſpair, prevail-'ed upon his ſon to withdraw himſelf 'from the kingdom until ſuch time 'as the ſtorm ſhould be over-blown. 'Had his heart been unengaged, he 'would have choſe to travel; but at 'this period, when his whole ſoul was 'engroſſed, and ſo violently agitated by 'his paſſion for Aurelia, nothing but 'the fear of ſeeing the old gentleman 'run diſtracted would have induced 'him to deſiſt from the purſuit of that 'young lady, far leſs quit the kingdom 'where ſhe reſided.

'Well, then, gemmen, he repaired to 'Harwich, where he embarked for 'Holland; from whence he proceeded to 'Bruſſels, where he procured a paſſport 'from the French king, by virtue of 'which he travelled to Marſeilles, and 'there took a tartan for Genoa. The 'firſt letter Sir Everhard received from 'him was dated at Florence. Mean 'while the ſurgeon's prognoſtick was 'not altogether verified. Mr. Darnel 'did not die immediately of his wounds; 'but he lingered a long time, as it were, 'in the arms of death, and even partly 'recovered; yet, in all probability, he 'will never be wholly reſtored to the 'enjoyment of his health, and is oblig-'ed every ſummer to attend the hot-'wells at Briſtol. As his wounds be-'gan to heal, his hatred to Mr. Greaves 'ſeemed to revive with augmented vio-'lence; and he is now, if poſſible, more 'than ever determined againſt all re-'conciliation.

'Mr. Launcelot, after having endea-'voured to amuſe his imagination with 'a ſucceſſion of curious objects in a 'tour of Italy, took up his reſidence 'at a town called Piſa; and there fell 'into a deep melancholy, from which 'nothing could rouze him but the 'news of his father's death.

'The old gentleman (God reſt his 'ſoull) never held up his head after the 'departure of his darling Launcelot; 'and the dangerous condition of Dar-'nel kept up his apprehenſion: this 'was reinforced by the obſtinate ſilence 'of the youth, and certain accounts of 'his diſordered mind which he had

'received from ſome of thoſe perſons 'who take pleaſure in communicating 'diſagreeable tidings. A complica- 'tion of all theſe grievances, co-operat- 'ing with a ſevere fit of the gout and 'gravel, produced a fever, which in a 'few days brought Sir Everhard to his 'long home, after he had ſettled his 'affairs with Heaven and earth, and 'made his peace with God and man. 'I'll aſſure you, gemmen, he made a moſt 'edifying and Chriſtian end: he died 'regretted by all his neighbours except 'Anthony; and might be ſaid to be 'embalmed by the tears of the poor, to 'whom he was always a bounteous 'benefactor.

'When the ſon, now Sir Launcelot, 'came home, he appeared ſo meagre, 'wan, and hollow-eyed, that the ſer- 'vants hardly knew their young maſter. 'His firſt care was to take poſſeſſion of 'his fortune, and ſettle accounts with 'the ſteward, who had ſucceeded my 'father. Theſe affairs being diſcuſſed, 'he ſpared no pains to get intelligence 'concerning Miſs Darnel, and ſoon 'learned more of that young lady than 'he deſired to know; for it was be- 'come the common talk of the country 'that a match was agreed upon between 'her and young Squire Sycamore, a 'gentleman of a very great fortune. 'Theſe tidings were probably confirmed 'under her own hand, in a letter which 'ſhe wrote to Sir Launcelot. The 'contents were never exactly known 'but to the parties themſelves; never- 'theleſs, the effects were too viſible; 'for, from that bleſſed moment, he 'ſpoke not one word to any living 'creature for the ſpace of three days; but 'was ſeen ſometimes to ſhed a flood of 'tears, and ſometimes to burſt out into 'a fit of laughing. At laſt he broke 'ſilence, and ſeemed to wake from his 'diſorder. He became more fond than 'ever of the exerciſe of riding, and be- 'gan to amuſe himſelf again with acts 'of benevolence.

'One inſtance of his generoſity and 'juſtice deſerves to be recorded in braſs 'or marble. You muſt know, gem- 'men, the rector of the pariſh was late- 'ly dead, and Sir Everhard had pro- 'miſed the preſentation to another 'clergyman. In the mean time, Sir 'Launcelot chancing one Sunday to 'ride through a lane, perceived a horſe, 'ſaddled and bridled, feeding on the 'ſide of a fence; and caſting his eyes 'around, beheld on the other ſide of 'the hedge an object lying extended 'on the ground, which he took to be 'the body of a murdered traveller. 'He forthwith alighted; and leaping 'into the field, deſcried a man at full 'length wrapped in a great coat, and 'writhing in agony. Approaching 'nearer, he found it was a clergyman 'in his gown and caſſock. When he 'inquired into the caſe, and offered his 'aſſiſtance, the ſtranger roſe up, thank- 'ed him for his courteſy, and declared 'that he was now very well. The 'knight, who thought there was ſome- 'thing myſterious in this incident, ex- 'preſſed a deſire to know the cauſe of 'his rolling in the graſs in that man- 'ner; and the clergyman, who knew 'his perſon, made no ſcruple in gratify- 'ing his curioſity. "You muſt know, "Sir," ſaid he, "I ſerve the curacy of "your own pariſh, for which the late "incumbent paid me twenty pounds a "year; but this ſum being ſcarce ſuf- "ficient to maintain my wife and chil- "dren, who are five in number, I agreed "to read prayers in the afternoon at "another church about four miles from "hence; and for this additional duty "I receive ten pounds more. As I "keep a horſe, it was formerly an "agreeable exerciſe rather than a toil; "but of late years I have been af- "flicted with a rupture, for which I "conſulted the moſt eminent opera- "tors in the kingdom; but I have no "cauſe to rejoice in the effects of their "advice, though one of them aſſured "me I was compleatly cured. The "malady is now more troubleſome "than ever; and often comes upon me "ſo violently while I am on horſe- "back, that I am forced to alight, and "lie down upon the ground, until the "cauſe of the diſorder can, for the time, "be reduced."

'Sir Launcelot not only condoled 'with him upon his misfortune, but 'deſired him to throw up the ſecond 'cure, and he would pay him ten pounds 'a year out of his own pocket. "Your "generoſity confounds me, good Sir," 'replied the clergyman; "and yet I "ought not to be ſurprized at any in- "ſtance of benevolence in Sir Laun- "celot Greaves; but I will check the

"fulneſs

" fulneſs of my heart. I ſhall only " obſerve, that your good intention to- " wards me can hardly take effect. " The gentleman who is to ſucceed " the late incumbent has given me " notice to quit the premiſes, as he hath " provided a friend of his own for the " curacy."—" What!" cried the ' knight, " does he mean to take your " bread from you without aſſigning " any other reaſon?"—" Surely, Sir," ' replied the eccleſiaſtick, " I know of " no other reaſon. I hope my morals " are irreproachable, and that I have " done my duty with a conſcientious " regard; I may venture an appeal to " the pariſhioners, among whom I have " lived theſe ſeventeen years. After " all, it is natural for every man to fa- " vour his own friends in preference " to ſtrangers. As for me, I propoſe " to try my fortune in the great city; " and I doubt not but Providence will " provide for me and my little ones."

' To this declaration Sir Launcelot ' made no reply; but riding home, ſet ' on foot a ſtrict enquiry into the cha- ' racter of this man, whoſe name was ' Jenkins. He found that he was a re- ' puted ſcholar, equally remarkable for ' his modeſty and good life; that he ' viſited the ſick, aſſiſted the needy, ' compromiſed diſputes among his ' neighbours, and ſpent his time in ſuch ' a manner as would have done honour ' to any Chriſtian divine. Thus in- ' formed, the knight ſent for the gentle- ' man to whom the living had been pro- ' miſed, and accoſted him to this effect: " Mr. Tootle, I have a favour to aſk " of you. The perſon who ſerves " the cure of this pariſh is a man of " good character, beloved by the peo- " ple, and has a large family. I ſhall " be obliged to you if you will conti- " nue him in the curacy." The other ' told him he was ſorry he could not ' comply with his requeſt, being that ' he had already promiſed the curacy to ' a friend of his own. " No matter," ' replied Sir Launcelot; " ſince I have " not intereſt with you, I will endea- " vour to provide for Mr. Jenkins in " ſome other way."

' That ſame afternoon he walked ' over to the curate's houſe, and told ' him that he had ſpoken in his behalf ' to Dr. Tootle, but the curacy was ' pre-engaged. The good man having ' made a thouſand acknowledgments for ' the trouble his honour had taken, " I " have not intereſt ſufficient to make " you curate," ſaid the knight, " but I " can give you the living itſelf, and " that you ſhall have." So ſaying, he ' retired, leaving Mr. Jenkins incapa- ' ble of uttering one ſyllable, ſo pow- ' erfully was he ſtruck with this unex- ' pected turn of fortune. The preſen- ' tation was immediately made out; ' and in a few days Mr. Jenkins was ' put in poſſeſſion of his benefice, to the ' inexpreſſible joy of the congregation.

' Hitherto every thing went right, ' and every unprejudiced perſon com- ' mended the knight's conduct. But in ' a little time his generoſity ſeemed to ' overleap the bounds of diſcretion; ' and even, in ſome caſes, might be ' thought tending to a breach of the ' king's peace. For example, he com- ' pelled, *vi et armis*, a rich farmer's ' ſon to marry the daughter of a cot- ' tager, whom the young fellow had ' debauched. Indeed, it ſeems there ' was a promiſe of marriage in the caſe, ' though it could not be legally aſcer- ' tained. The wench took on diſmal- ' ly; and her parents had recourſe to ' Sir Launcelot; who ſending for the ' delinquent, expoſtulated with him ſe- ' verely on the injury he had done the ' young woman, and exhorted him to ' ſave her life and reputation by per- ' forming his promiſe; in which caſe ' he (Sir Launcelot) would give her ' three hundred pounds to her portion. ' Whether the farmer thought there ' was ſomething intereſted in this un- ' common offer, or was a little elevated ' by the conſciouſneſs of his father's ' wealth, he rejected the propoſal with ' ruſtick diſdain; and ſaid, if ſo be as ' how the wench would ſwear the child ' to him, he would ſettle it with the ' pariſh; but declared, that no ſquire ' in the land ſhould oblige him to ' buckle with ſuch a cracked pitcher. ' This reſolution, however, he could ' not maintain; for in leſs than two ' hours the rector of the pariſh had di- ' rection to publiſh the banns, and the ' ceremony was performed in due courſe.

' Now, though we know not preciſe- ' ly the nature of the arguments that ' were uſed with the farmer, we may ' conclude they were of the minatory ' ſpecies; for the young fellow could ' not, for ſome time, look any perſon ' in the face.

' The

'The knight acted as the general redreſſer of grievances. If a woman complained to him of being ill-treated by her huſband, he firſt enquired into the foundation of the complaint, and, if he found it juſt, catechiſed the defendant. If the warning had no effect, and the man proceeded to freſh acts of violence, then his judge took the execution of the law in his own hand, and horſe-whipped the party. Thus he involved himſelf in ſeveral law-ſuits, that drained him of pretty large ſums of money. He ſeemed particularly incenſed at the leaſt appearance of oppreſſion, and ſupported divers poor tenants againſt the extortion of their landlords. Nay, he has been known to travel two hundred miles as a volunteer, to offer his aſſiſtance in the cauſe of a perſon who, he heard, was by chicanery and oppreſſion wronged of a conſiderable eſtate. He accordingly took her under his protection, relieved her diſtreſſes, and was at a vaſt expence in bringing the ſuit to a determination; which being unfavourable to his client, he reſolved to bring an appeal into the Houſe of Lords; and certainly would have executed his purpoſe, if the gentlewoman had not died in the interim.'

At this period Ferret interrupted the narrator, by obſerving that the ſaid Greaves was a common nuiſance, and ought to be proſecuted on the ſtatute of barretry.

'No, Sir,' reſumed Mr. Clarke, 'he cannot be convicted of barretry, unleſs he is always at variance with ſome perſon or other; a mover of ſuits and quarrels, who diſturbs the peace under colour of law. Therefore he is in the indictment ſtiled, *Communis malefactor, calumniator, et ſeminator litium.*'

'Pr'ythee, truce with thy definitions,' cried Ferret, 'and make an end of thy long winded ſtory. Thou haſt no title to be ſo tedious, until thou comeſt to have a coif in the court of Common Pleas.'

Tom ſmiled contemptuous; and had juſt opened his mouth to proceed, when the company were diſturbed by a hideous repetition of groans, that ſeemed to iſſue from the chamber in which the body of the ſquire was depoſited. The landlady ſnatched the candle, and ran into the room, followed by the doctor and the reſt; and this accident naturally ſuſpended the narration. In like manner we ſhall conclude the chapter, that the reader may have time to breathe, and digeſt what he has already heard.

CHAP. V.

IN WHICH THIS RECAPITULATION DRAWS TO A CLOSE.

WHEN the landlady entered the room from whence the groaning proceeded, ſhe found the ſquire lying on his back, under the dominion of the night-mare; which rode him ſo hard, that he not only groaned and ſnorted, but the ſweat ran down his face in ſtreams. The perturbation of his brain, occaſioned by this preſſure and the fright he had lately undergone, gave riſe to a very terrible dream, in which he fancied himſelf apprehended for a robbery. The horror of the gallows was ſtrong upon him, when he was ſuddenly awaked by a violent ſhock from the doctor; and the company broke in upon his view, ſtill perverted by fear, and bedimmed by ſlumber. His dream was now realized by a full perſuaſion that he was ſurrounded by the conſtable and his gang. The firſt object that preſented itſelf to his diſordered view was the figure of Ferret, who might very well have paſſed for the finiſher of the law; againſt him therefore the firſt effort of his deſpair was directed. He ſtarted upon the floor; and ſeizing a certain utenſil that ſhall be nameleſs, launched it at the miſanthrope with ſuch violence, that, had he not cautiouſly ſlipped his head aſide, it is ſuppoſed that actual fire would have been produced from the colliſion of two ſuch hard and ſolid ſubſtances. All future miſchief was prevented by the ſtrength and agility of Captain Crowe, who, ſpringing upon the aſſailant, pinioned his arms to his ſides, crying, 'O! damn ye, if you are 'for running a-head, I'll ſoon bring 'you to your bearings.'

The ſquire, thus reſtrained, ſoon recollected himſelf; and gazing upon every individual in the apartment, 'Wounds!' ſaid he, 'I've had an ugly dream. I thought, for all the 'world, they were carrying me to 'Newgate, and that there was Jack

'Ketch

'Ketch coom to vetch me before my 'taim.'

Ferret, who was the perſon he had thus diſtinguiſhed, eyeing him with a look of the moſt emphatick malevolence, told him, it was very natural for a knave to dream of Newgate; and that he hoped to ſee the day when this dream would be found a true prophecy, and the commonwealth purged of all ſuch rogues and vagabonds; but it could not be expected that the vulgar would be honeſt and conſcientious, while the great were diſtinguiſhed by profligacy and corruption. The ſquire was diſpoſed to make a practical reply to this inſinuation, when Mr. Ferret prudently withdrew himſelf from the ſcene of altercation. The good woman of the houſe perſuaded his antagoniſt to take out his nap, aſſuring him that the eggs and bacon, with a mug of excellent ale, ſhould be forthcoming in due ſeaſon. The affair being thus fortunately adjuſted, the guetts returned to the kitchen, and Mr. Clarke reſumed his ſtory to this effect.

'You'll pleaſe to take notice, gemmen, that beſides the inſtances I have alledged of Sir Launcelot's extravagant benevolence, I could recount a great many others of the ſame nature, and particularly the laudable vengeance he took of a country lawyer. —I'm ſorry that any ſuch miſcreant ſhould belong to the profeſſion. He was clerk to the aſſize, gemmen, in a certain town not a great way diſtant; and having a blank pardon left by the judges for ſome criminals whoſe caſes were attended with favourable circumſtances, he would not inſert the name of one who could not procure a guinea for the fee; and the poor fellow, who had only ſtole an hour-glaſs out of a ſhoemaker's window, was actually executed, after a long reſpite, during which he had been permitted to go abroad and earn his ſubſiſtence by his daily labour.

'Sir Launcelot being informed of this barbarous act of avarice, and having ſome ground that bordered on the lawyer's eſtate, not only rendered him contemptible and infamous, by expoſing him as often as they met on the grand jury; but alſo, being veſted with the property of the great tythes, proved ſuch a troubleſome neighbour, ſometimes by making waſte among his hay and corn, and ſometimes by inſtituting ſuits againſt him for petty treſpaſſes, that he was fairly obliged to quit his habitation, and remove into another part of the kingdom.

'All theſe avocations could not divert Sir Launcelot from the execution of a wild ſcheme, which has carried his extravagance to ſuch a pitch, that I am afraid if a ſtatute—you underſtand me, gemmen—were ſued, the jury would—I don't chuſe to explain myſelf farther on this circumſtance. Be that as it may, the ſervants at Greaveſbury Hall were not a little confounded when their maſter took down from the family armoury a compleat ſuit of armour, which had belonged to his great-grandfather, Sir Marmaduke Greaves, a great warrior, who loſt his life in the ſervice of his king. This armour being ſcoured, repaired, and altered, ſo as to fit Sir Launcelot; a certain knight, whom I don't chuſe to name, becauſe I believe he cannot be proved *compos mentis*, came down, ſeemingly on a viſit, with two attendants; and, on the eve of the feſtival of St. George, the armour being carried into the chapel, Sir Launcelot (Lord have mercy upon us!) remained all night in that diſmal place alone and without light, though it was confidently reported all over the country that the place was haunted by the ſpirit of his great-great uncle, who, being lunatick, had cut his throat from ear to ear, and was found dead on the communion-table.'

It was obſerved, that while Mr. Clarke rehearſed this circumſtance, his eyes began to ſtare, and his teeth to chatter; while Dolly, whoſe looks were fixed invariably on this narrator, growing pale, and hitching her joint-ſtool nearer the chimney, exclaimed in a frightened tone, 'Moother, moother, in the neame 'of God, look to 'un! how a quakes! 'as I'm a precious ſaoul, a looks as if 'a ſaw ſomething.' Tom forced a ſmile, and thus proceeded.

'While Sir Launcelot tarried within 'the chapel, with the doors all locked, 'the other knight ſtalked round and 'round it on the outſide with his ſword 'drawn, to the terror of divers perſons 'who were preſent at the ceremony. 'As ſoon as day broke, he opened one 'of the doors; and going in to Sir

'Launcelot,

'Launcelot, read a book for ſome time, 'which we did ſuppoſe to be the con-'ſtitutions of knight-errantry; then 'we heard a loud ſlap, which echoed 'through the whole chapel, and the 'ſtranger pronounce with an audible 'and ſolemn voice, "In the name of "God, St. Michael, and St. George, "I dub thee knight — be faithful, "bold, and fortunate."—You cannot 'imagine, gemmen, what an effect this 'ſtrange ceremony had upon the peo-'ple who were aſſembled: they gaz-'ed at one another in ſilent horror; 'and, when Sir Launcelot came forth 'compleatly armed, took to their heels 'in a body, and fled with the utmoſt 'precipitation. I myſelf was over-'turned in the crowd; and this was 'the caſe with that very individual per-'ſon who now ſerves him as a ſquire. 'He was ſo frightened, that he could 'not riſe; but lay roaring in ſuch a 'manner, that the knight came up, and 'gave him a thwack with his launce 'acroſs the ſhoulders, which rouzed him 'with a vengeance. For my own part, 'I freely own I was not altogether un-'moved at ſeeing ſuch a figure come 'ſtalking out of a church in the grey of 'the morning; for it recalled to my re-'membrance the idea of the ghoſt in 'Hamlet, which I had ſeen acted in 'Drury-Lane when I made my firſt 'trip to London, and I had not yet 'got rid of the impreſſion.

'Sir Launcelot, attended by the 'other knight, proceeded to the ſtable; 'from whence, with his own hands, 'he drew forth one of his beſt 'horſes, a fine mettleſome ſorrel, who 'had got blood in him, ornamented 'with rich trappings. In a trice the 'two knights, and the other two 'ſtrangers, who now appeared to be 'trumpeters, were mounted. Sir Laun-'celot's armour was lacquered black; 'and on his ſhield was repreſented the 'moon in her firſt quarter, with the 'motto, *impleat orbem*. The trumpets 'having ſounded a charge, the ſtranger 'pronounced with a loud voice, "God "preſerve this gallant knight in all his "honourable atchievements; and may "he long continue to preſs the ſides of "his now-adopted ſteed, which I de-"nominate Bronzomarte; hoping that "he will rival, in ſwiftneſs and ſpirit, "Bayardo, Brigliadoro, or any other "ſteed of paſt or preſent chivalry!"

'After another flouriſh of the trum-'pets, all four clapped ſpurs to their 'horſes, Sir Launcelot couching his 'launce; and gallopped to and fro as 'if they had been mad, to the terror 'and aſtoniſhment of all the ſpecta-'tors.

'What ſhould have induced our 'knight to chuſe this here man for his 'ſquire, is not eaſy to determine; for, 'of all the ſervants about the houſe, he 'was the leaſt likely either to pleaſe 'his maſter, or engage in ſuch an un-'dertaking. His name is Timothy 'Crabſhaw, and he acted in the capa-'city of whipper-in to Sir Everhard. 'He afterwards married the daughter 'of a poor cottager, by whom he has 'ſeveral children, and was employed 'about the houſe as a ploughman and 'carter. To be ſure, the fellow has a 'dry ſort of humour about him; but 'he was univerſally hated among the 'ſervants for his abuſive tongue and 'perverſe diſpoſition, which often 'brought him into trouble; for though 'the fellow is as ſtrong as an elephant, 'he has no more courage naturally 'than a chicken — I ſay, naturally, 'becauſe, ſince his being a member of 'knight-errantry, he has done ſome 'things that appear altogether incre-'dible and preternatural.

'Timothy kept ſuch a bawling, af-'ter he had received the blow from Sir 'Launcelot, that every body on the field 'thought ſome of his bones were brok-'en; and his wife, with five bant-'lings, came ſnivelling to the knight, 'who ordered her to ſend her huſband 'directly to his houſe. Tim accord-'ingly went thither, groaning piteouſ-'ly all the way, creeping along with 'his body bent like a Greenland canoe. 'As ſoon as he entered the court, the 'outward door was ſhut; and Sir 'Launcelot coming down ſtairs with a 'horſewhip in his hand, aſked what 'was the matter with him that he com-'plained ſo diſmally? To this queſtion 'he replied, that it was as common as 'duck-weed in his country for a man 'to complain when his bones were 'broke. — "What ſhould have broke "your bones?" ſaid the knight. "I "cannot gueſs," anſwered the other, "unleſs it was that delicate ſwitch that "your honour, in your mad pranks, "handled ſo dexterouſly upon my car-"caſe." Sir Launcelot then told him,

'there

there was nothing so good for a bruise as a sweat, and he had the remedy in his hand. Timothy eyeing the horse-whip askaunce, observed that there was another still more speedy, to wit, a moderate pill of lead, with a sufficient dose of gun-powder. "No, rascal," cried the knight, "that must be reserved for your betters." So saying, he employed the instrument so effectually, that Crabshaw soon forgot his fractured ribs, and capered about with great agility.

When he had been disciplined in this manner to some purpose, the knight told him he might retire; but ordered him to return next morning, when he should have a repetition of the medicine, provided he did not find himself capable of walking in an erect posture. The gate was no sooner thrown open, than Timothy ran home with all the speed of a greyhound, and corrected his wife, by whose advice he had pretended to be so grievously damaged in his person.

Nobody dreamed that he would next day present himself at Greavesbury Hall; nevertheless, he was there very early in the morning, and even closetted a whole hour with Sir Launcelot. He came out making wry faces, and several times slapped himself on the forehead, crying, "Bodikins! thof he be crazy, I an't, that I an't!" When he was asked what was the matter, he said, he believed the devil had got in him, and he should never be his own man again.

That same day, the knight carried him to Ashenton, where he bespoke those accoutrements which he now wears; and while these were making, it was thought the poor fellow would have run distracted. He did nothing but growl, and curse, and sweat to himself, run backwards and forwards between his own hut and Greavesbury Hall, and quarrel with the horses in the stable. At length his wife and family were removed into a snug farm-house that happened to be empty, and care taken that they should be comfortably maintained.

These precautions being taken, the knight, one morning at day-break, mounted Bronzomarte; and Crabshaw, as his squire, ascended the back of a clumsey cart-horse, called Gilbert. This again was looked upon as an instance of insanity in the said Crabshaw; for, of all the horses in the stable, Gilbert was the most stubborn and vicious, and had often like to have done mischief to Timothy while he drove the cart and plough. When he was out of humour, he would kick and plunge as if the devil was in him. He once thrust Crabshaw into the middle of a quickset hedge, where he was terribly torn; another time he canted him over his head into a quagmire, where he stuck with his heels up, and must have perished if people had not been passing that way; a third time he seized him in the stable with his teeth by the rim of the belly, and swung him off the ground, to the great danger of his life; and I'll be hanged if it was not owing to Gilbert that Crabshaw was now thrown into the river.

Thus mounted and accoutred, the knight and his squire set out on their first excursion. They turned off from the common highway, and travelled all that day without meeting with any thing worthy recounting; but, in the morning of the second day, they were favoured with an adventure. The hunt was upon a common through which they travelled, and the hounds were in full cry after a fox; when Crabshaw, prompted by his own mischievous disposition, and neglecting the order of his master, who called aloud to him to desist, rode up to the hounds, and crossed them at full gallop. The huntsman, who was not far off, running towards the squire, bestowed upon his head such a memento with his pole, as made the landscape dance before his eyes; and in a twinkling he was surrounded by all the fox-hunters, who plied their whips about his ears with infinite agility. Sir Launcelot advancing at an easy pace, instead of assisting the disastrous squire, exhorted his adversaries to punish him severely for his insolence, and they were not slow in obeying this injunction. Crabshaw finding himself in this disagreeable situation, and that there was no succour to be expected from his master, on whose prowess he had depended, grew desperate; and clubbing his whip, laid about him with great fury, wheeling about Gilbert, who was not idle; for he having received some of

'the favours intended for his rider, 'both bit with his teeth and kicked 'with his heels; and at laſt made his 'way through the ring that encircled 'him, though not before he had broke 'the huntſman's leg, lamed one of the 'beſt horſes on the field, and killed 'half a ſcore of the hounds.

'Crabſhaw ſeeing himſelf clear of 'the fray, did not tarry to take leave of 'his maſter, but made the moſt of his 'way to Greaveſbury Hall, where he 'appeared hardly with any veſtige of 'the human countenance, ſo much had 'he been defaced in this adventure. 'He did not fail to raiſe a great clamour 'againſt Sir Launcelot, whom he curſed 'as a coward in plain terms, ſwearing 'he would never ſerve him another 'day: but whether he altered his mind 'on cooler reflection, or was lectured 'by his wife, who well underſtood her 'own intereſt, he roſe with the cock, 'and went again in queſt of Sir Laun-'celot, whom he found on the eve of a 'very hazardous enterprize.

'In the midſt of a lane the knight 'happened to meet with a party of 'about forty recruits, commanded by a 'ſerjeant, a corporal, and a drummer, 'which laſt had his drum ſlung at his 'back; but ſeeing ſuch a ſtrange figure 'mounted on a high-ſpirited horſe, he 'was ſeized with an inclination to di-'vert his company. With this view 'he braced his drum; and hanging it 'in it's proper poſition, began to beat a 'point of war, advancing under the 'very noſe of Bronzomarte; while the 'corporal exclaimed, "Damn my eyes, "who have we got here? Old King "Stephen, from the horſe-armoury, "in the Tower; or the fellow that "rides armed at my lord-mayor's "ſhew?" The knight's ſteed ſeemed 'at leaſt as well pleaſed with the ſound 'of the drum as were the recruits that 'followed it; and ſignified his ſatisfac-'tion in ſome curvettings and ca-'prioles, which did not at all diſcom-'poſe the rider; who, addreſſing him-'ſelf to the ſerjeant, "Friend," ſaid 'he, "you ought to teach your drum-"mer better manners. I would chaſ-"tiſe the fellow on the ſpot for his in-"ſolence, were it not out of the reſpect "I bear to his majeſty's ſervice."— "Reſpect mine a—!" cried this fero-'cious commander; "What, d'ye think "to frighten us with your pewter piſ-"pot on your ſcull, and your lacquered "pot-lid on your arm? Get out of the "way and be damned, or I'll raiſe with "my halbert ſuch a clutter upon your "target, that you'll remember it the "longeſt day you have to live." At 'that inſtant, Crabſhaw arriving upon 'Gilbert, "So, raſcal!" ſaid Sir 'Launcelot, "you are returned. Go "and beat in that ſcoundrel's drum-"head."

'The ſquire, who ſaw no weapons 'of offence about the drummer but a 'ſword, which he hoped the owner 'durſt not draw; and being reſolved to 'exert himſelf in making atonement 'for his deſertion, advanced to execute 'his maſter's orders; but Gilbert, who 'liked not the noiſe, refuſed to proceed 'in the ordinary way. Then the ſquire 'turning his tail to the drummer, he 'advanced in a retrograde motion, and 'with one kick of his heels, not only 'broke the drum into a thouſand pieces, 'but laid the drummer in the mire, 'with ſuch a blow upon his hip-bone, 'that he halted all the days of his life. 'The recruits, perceiving the diſcom-'fiture of their leader, armed them-'ſelves with ſtones; the ſerjeant raiſed 'his halbert in a poſture of defence, and 'immediately a ſevere action enſued. 'By this time Crabſhaw had drawn 'his ſword, and begun to lay about 'him like a devil incarnate; but, in a 'little time, he was ſaluted by a volley 'of ſtones, one of which knocked out 'two of his grinders, and brought him 'to the earth, where he had like to have 'found no quarter; for the whole com-'pany crouded about him, with their 'cudgels brandiſhed; and perhaps he 'owed his preſervation to their preſſing 'ſo hard that they hindered one ano-'ther from uſing their weapons.

'Sir Launcelot, ſeeing with indig-'nation the unworthy treatment his 'ſquire had received, and ſcorning to 'ſtain his launce with the blood of ple-'beians, inſtead of couching it in the 'reſt, ſeized it by the middle; and fetch-'ing one blow at the ſerjeant, broke in 'twain the halbert, which he had raiſed 'as a quarter-ſtaff for his defence. The 'ſecond ſtroke encountered his pate; 'which being the hardeſt part about 'him, ſuſtained the ſhock without da-'mage; but the third, lighting on his 'ribs, he honoured the giver with im-'mediate proſtration. The general

'being

'being thus overthrown, Sir Launcelot advanced to the relief of Crabſhaw, and handled his weapon ſo effectually, that the whole body of the enemy were diſabled or routed before one cudgel had touched the carcaſe of the fallen ſquire. As for the corporal, inſtead of ſtanding by his commanding officer, he had overleaped the hedge, and run to the conſtable of an adjoining village for aſſiſtance. Accordingly, before Crabſhaw could be properly remounted, the peace officer arrived with his poſſe; and by the corporal was charged with Sir Launcelot and his ſquire, as two highwaymen. The conſtable, aſtoniſhed at the martial figure of the knight, and intimidated at ſight of the havock he had made, contented himſelf with ſtanding at a diſtance, diſplaying the badge of his office, and reminding the knight that he repreſented his majeſty's perſon.

'Sir Launcelot ſeeing the poor man in great agitation, aſſured him that his deſign was to enforce, not violate the laws of his country; and that he and his ſquire would attend him to the next juſtice of peace; but, in the mean time, he, in his turn, charged the peace-officer with the ſerjeant and drummer, who had began the fray.

'The juſtice had been a pettifogger, and was a ſycophant to a nobleman in the neighbourhood, who had a poſt at court. He therefore thought he ſhould oblige his patron by ſhewing his reſpect for *the military*, and treated our knight with the moſt booriſh inſolence; but refuſed to admit him into his houſe until he had ſurrendered all his weapons of offence to the conſtable. Sir Launcelot and his ſquire being found the aggreſſors, the juſtice inſiſted upon making out their mittimus, if they did not find bail immediately; and could hardly be prevailed upon to agree that they ſhould remain at the houſe of the conſtable; who being a publican, undertook to keep them in ſafe cuſtody until the knight could write to his ſteward. Meanwhile, he was bound over to the peace; and the ſerjeant, with his drummer, were told they had a good action againſt him for aſſault and battery, either by information or indictment.

'They were not, however, ſo fond of the law as the juſtice ſeemed to be. Their ſentiments had taken a turn in favour of Sir Launcelot during the courſe of his examination, by which it appeared that he was really a gentleman of faſhion and fortune; and they reſolved to compromiſe the affair without the intervention of his worſhip. Accordingly, the ſerjeant repaired to the conſtable's houſe, where the knight was lodged; and humbled himſelf before his honour, proteſting, with many oaths, that if he had known his quality he would have beaten the drummer's brains about his ears for preſuming to give his honour or his horſe the leaſt diſturbance; thof the fellow, he believed, was ſufficiently puniſhed in being a cripple for life.

'Sir Launcelot admitted of his apologies; and taking compaſſion on the fellow who had ſuffered ſo ſeverely for his folly, reſolved to provide for his maintenance. Upon the repreſentation of the parties to the juſtice, the warrant was next day diſcharged; and the knight returned to his own houſe, attended by the ſerjeant and the drummer mounted on horſeback, the recruits being left to the corporal's charge.

'The halberdier found the good effects of Sir Launcelot's liberality; and his companion being rendered unfit for his majeſty's ſervice by the heels of Gilbert, is now entertained at Greaveſbury Hall, where he will probably remain for life.

'As for Crabſhaw, his maſter gave him to underſtand, that if he did not think him pretty well chaſtiſed for his preſumption and ſlight by the diſcipline he had undergone in the laſt two adventures, he would turn him out of his ſervice with diſgrace. Timothy ſaid, he believed it would be the greateſt favour he could do him to turn him out of a ſervice in which he knew he ſhould be rib-roaſted every day, and murdered at laſt.

'In this ſituation were things at Greaveſbury Hall about a month ago, when I croſſed the country to Ferrybridge, where I met my uncle: probably, this was the firſt incident of their ſecond excurſion; for the diſtance between this here houſe and Sir Launcelot's eſtate does not exceed fourſcore or ninety miles.'

CHAP. VI.

IN WHICH THE READER WILL PERCEIVE THAT IN SOME CASES MADNESS IS CATCHING.

MR. Clarke having made an end of his narrative, the ſurgeon thanked him for the entertainment he had received, and Mr. Ferret ſhrugged up his ſhoulders in ſilent diſapprobation. As for Captain Crowe, who uſed at ſuch pauſes to pour in a broadſide of diſmembered remarks, linked together like chain-ſhot, ſpoke not a ſyllable for ſome time; but, lighting a freſh pipe at the candle, began to roll ſuch voluminous clouds of ſmoke, as in an inſtant filled the whole apartment, and rendered himſelf inviſible to the whole company. Though he thus ſhrouded himſelf from their view, he did not long remain concealed from their hearing. They firſt heard a ſtrange diſſonant cackle, which the doctor knew to be a ſea-laugh; and this was followed by an eager exclamation of, 'Rare paſtime, 'ſtrike my yards and top-maſts!—I've 'a good mind—why ſhouldn't I—many 'a loſing voyage I've—ſmite my taffrel but I wool—'

By this time he had relaxed ſo much in his fumigation, that the tip of his noſe and one eye re-appeared; and as he had drawn his wig forwards ſo as to cover his whole forehead, the figure that now ſaluted their eyes was much more ferocious and terrible than the fire-breathing chimæra of the ancients. Notwithſtanding this dreadful appearance, there was no indignation in his heart; but, on the contrary, an agreeable curioſity, which he was determined to gratify.

Addreſſing himſelf to Mr. Fillet, 'Pr'ythee, doctor,' ſaid he, 'canſt tell 'whether a man, without being rated a 'lord or a baron, or what-d'ye-call um, 'd'ye ſee, mayn't take to the highway 'in the way of a frolick, d'ye ſee?—'Adad! for my own part, brother, I'm 'reſolved as how to cruize a bit in the 'way of an arrant—if ſo be as I can't 'at once be commander, mayhap I 'may be bore upon the books as a petty 'officer, or the like, d'ye ſee.'

'Now, the Lord forbid!' cried Clarke, with tears in his eyes, 'I'd rather ſee you dead than brought to 'ſuch a dilemma.'—'Mayhap thou 'wouldſt,' anſwered the uncle; 'for 'then, my lad, there would be ſome 'picking—aha! doſt thou tip me the 'traveller, my boy?' Tom aſſured him he ſcorned any ſuch mercenary views; 'I am only concerned,' ſaid he, 'that you ſhould take any ſtep that 'might tend to the diſgrace of yourſelf 'or your family; and I ſay again, I had 'rather die than live to ſee you reckoned 'any otherwiſe than *compos*.'—'Die 'and be damned! you ſhambling, half-'timber'd ſon of a ———,' cried the cholerick Crowe; 'doſt talk to me of 'keeping a reckoning and compaſs!—'I could keep a reckoning, and box my 'compaſs, long enough before thy keel-'ſtone was laid—Sam Crowe is not 'come here to aſk thy counſel how to 'ſteer his courſe.'—'Lord, Sir,' returned the nephew, 'conſider what 'people will ſay—all the world will 'think you mad.'—'Set thy heart at 'eaſe, Tom,' cried the ſeaman, 'I'll 'have a trip to and again in this here 'channel. Mad! what then? I think, 'for my part, one half of the nation is 'mad—and the other not very ſound—'I don't ſee why I han't as good a 'right to be mad as another man—But, 'doctor, as I was ſaying, I'd be bound 'to you, if you would direct me where 'I can buy that ſame tackle that an 'arrant muſt wear; as for the matter 'of the long pole headed with iron, I'd 'never deſire a better than a good boat-'hook, and I could make a ſpecial good 'target of that there tin ſconce that 'holds the candle—mayhap any black-'ſmith will hammer me a ſkull-cap, 'd'ye ſee, out of an old braſs kettle; 'and I can call my horſe by the name 'of my ſhip, which was Mufti.'

The ſurgeon was one of thoſe wags who can laugh inwardly, without exhibiting the leaſt outward mark of mirth or ſatisfaction. He at once perceived the amuſement which might be drawn from this ſtrange diſpoſition of the ſailor, together with the moſt likely means which could be uſed to divert him from ſuch an extravagant purſuit. He therefore tipped Clarke the wink with one ſide of his face, while the other was very gravely turned to the captain, whom he addreſſed to this effect: 'If 'is not far from hence to Sheffield, 'where you might be fitted compleatly 'in half a day—then you muſt take 'your

'your armour in church or chapel, and 'be dubbed. As for this laſt cere-'mony, it may be performed by any 'perſon whatſoever. Don Quixote was 'dubbed by his landlord; and there 'are many inſtances on record of er-'rants obliging and compelling the 'next perſon they met to croſs their 'ſhoulders, and dub them knights. I 'myſelf would undertake to be your 'godfather, and I have intereſt enough 'to procure the keys of the pariſh-'church that ſtands hard by; beſides, 'this is the eve of St. Martin, who was 'himſelf a knight-errant, and therefore 'a proper patron to a noviciate. I wiſh 'we could borrow Sir Launcelot's ar-'mour for the occaſion.'

Crowe being ſtruck with this hint, ſtarted up; and laying his fingers on his lips to enjoin ſilence, walked off ſoftly on his tiptoes, to liſten at the door of our knight's apartment, and judge whether or not he was aſleep. Mr. Fillet took this opportunity to tell his nephew that it would be in vain for him to combat this humour with reaſon and argument; but the moſt effectual way of diverting him from the plan of knight-errantry would be, to frighten him heartily while he ſhould keep his vigil in the church; towards the ac-compliſhment of which purpoſe he craved the aſſiſtance of the miſanthrope as well as the nephew. Clarke ſeemed to reliſh the ſcheme; and obſerved that his uncle, though endued with courage enough to face any human danger, had at bottom a ſtrong fund of ſuperſtition, which he had acquired, or at leaſt improved, in the courſe of a ſea-life. Ferret, who perhaps would not have gone ten paces out of his road to ſave Crowe from the gallows, nevertheleſs engaged as an auxiliary, merely in hope of ſeeing a fellow-creature miſerable; and even undertook to be the principal agent in this adventure. For this office, indeed, he was better qualified than they could have imagined; in the bundle which he kept under his great coat, there was, together with divers noſtrums, a ſmall phial of liquid phoſphorus, ſuf-ficient, as he had already obſerved, to frighten a whole neighbourhood out of their ſenſes.

In order to concert the previous mea-ſures without being overheard, theſe confederates retired with a candle and lanthorn into the ſtable; and their backs were ſcarce turned, when captain Crowe came in loaded with pieces of the knight's armour, which he had conveyed from the apartment of Sir Launcelot, whom he had left faſt aſleep.

Underſtanding that the reſt of the company were gone out for a moment, he could not reſiſt the inclination he felt of communicating his intention to the landlady; who, with her daughter, had been too much engaged in preparing Crabſhaw's ſupper, to know the pur-port of their converſation. The good woman, being informed of the captain's deſign to remain alone all night in the church, began to oppoſe it with all her rhetorick. She ſaid it was ſetting his Maker at defiance, and a wilful run-ning into temptation. She aſſured him that all the country knew that the church was haunted by ſpirits and hob-goblins; that lights had been ſeen in every corner of it; and a tall woman in white had one night appeared upon the top of the tower; that dreadful ſhrieks were often heard to come from the ſouth aiſle, where a murdered man had been buried; that ſhe herſelf had ſeen the croſs on the ſteeple all a-fire; and one evening, as ſhe paſſed a-horſeback cloſe by the ſtile at the entrance into the church-yard, the horſe ſtood ſtill, ſweat-ing and trembling, and had no power to proceed until ſhe had repeated the Lord's Prayer.

Theſe remarks made a ſtrong impreſ-ſion on the imagination of Crowe; who aſked, in ſome confuſion, if ſhe had got that ſame prayer in print. She made no anſwer; but reaching the prayer-book from a ſhelf, and turning up the leaf, put it into his hand; then the captain, hav-ing adjuſted his ſpectacles, began to read, or rather ſpell, aloud, with equal eagerneſs and ſolemnity. He had re-freſhed his memory ſo well as to re-member the whole, when the doctor, returning with his companions, gave him to underſtand that he had procured the key of the chancel, where he might watch his armour as well as in the body of the church; and that he was ready to conduct him to the ſpot. Crowe was not now quite ſo forward as he had ap-peared before to atchieve this adven-ture: he began to ſtart objections with reſpect to the borrowed armour; he wanted to ſtipulate the comforts of a can of flip, and a candle's end, during his vigil; and hinted ſomething of the

damage

damage he might ſuſtain from your malicious imps of darkneſs.

The doctor told him, the conſtitutions of chivalry abſolutely required that he ſhould be left in the dark alone, and faſting, to ſpend the night in pious meditations; but if he had any fears which diſturbed his conſcience, he had much better deſiſt, and give up all thoughts of knight-errantry, which could not conſiſt with the leaſt ſhadow of apprehenſion. The captain, ſtung by this remark, replied not a word; but gathering up the armour into a bundle, threw it on his back, and ſet out for the place of probation, preceded by Clarke with the lanthorn. When they arrived at the church, Fillet, who had procured the key from the ſexton, who was his patient, opened the door, and conducted our novice into the middle of the chancel, where the armour was depoſited. Then bidding Crowe draw his hanger, committed him to the protection of Heaven, aſſuring him he would come back, and find him either dead or alive by day-break, and perform the remaining part of the ceremony. So ſaying, he and the other aſſociates ſhook him by the hand and took their leave, after the ſurgeon had tilted up the lanthorn to take a view of his viſage, which was pale and haggard.

Before the door was locked upon him, he called aloud, 'Hilloa, doctor! 'hip—— another word, d'ye ſee——' They forthwith returned to know what he wanted, and found him already in a ſweat. 'Heark ye, brother,' ſaid he, wiping his face, 'I do ſuppoſe as how 'one may paſs away the time in 'whiſtling the Black Joke, or ſinging 'Black-ey'd Suſan, or ſome ſuch 'ſorrowful ditty.'—'By no means,' cried the doctor, 'ſuch paſtimes are neither ſuitable to the place, nor the occaſion, which is altogether a religious 'exerciſe. If you have got any pſalms 'by heart, you may ſing a ſtave or 'two, or repeat the Doxology.'—— 'Would I had Tom Laverick here,' replied our noviciate; 'he would ſing 'you anthems like a ſea-mew—a had 'been a clerk aſhore—many's the time 'and often I've given him a rope's end 'for ſinging pſalms in the larboard 'watch—would I had hired the ſon of 'a bitch to have taught me a caſt of his 'office—but it cannot be holp, brother '—if we can't go large, we muſt haul 'upon a wind, as the ſaying is—if we 'can't ſing, we muſt pray.' The company again left him to his devotion, and returned to the publick-houſe, in order to execute the eſſential part of their project.

CHAP. VII.

IN WHICH THE KNIGHT RESUMES HIS IMPORTANCE.

DOCTOR Fillet having borrowed a couple of ſheets from the landlady, dreſſed the miſanthrope and Tom Clarke in ghoſtly apparel, which was reinforced by a few drops of liquid phoſphorus, from Ferret's phial, rubbed on the foreheads of the two adventurers. Thus equipped, they returned to the church with their conductor, who entered with them ſoftly at an aiſle which was oppoſite to a place where the novice kept watch. They ſtole unperceived through the body of the church; and though it was ſo dark that they could not diſtinguiſh the captain with the eye, they heard the ſound of his ſteps, as he walked backwards and forwards on the pavement with uncommon expedition, and an ejaculation now and then eſcape in a murmur from his lips.

The triumvirate having taken their ſtation, with a large pew in their front, the two ghoſts uncovered their heads, which, by help of the phoſphorus, exhibited a pale and lambent flame, extremely diſmal and ghaſtly to the view; then Ferret in a ſqueaking tone, exclaimed, 'Samuel Crowe! Samuel 'Crowe!' The captain hearing himſelf accoſted in this manner, at ſuch a time, and in ſuch a place, replied, 'Hil-'loah!' and turning his eyes towards the quarter whence the voice ſeemed to proceed, beheld the terrible apparition. This no ſooner ſaluted his view, than his hair briſtled up, his knees began to knock, and his teeth to chatter, while he cried aloud, 'In the name of God, 'where are you bound, ho?' To this hail the miſanthrope anſwered, 'We are 'the ſpirits of thy grandmother Jane 'and thy aunt Bridget.'

At mention of theſe names, Crowe's terrors began to give way to his reſentment; and he pronounced in a quick tone

tone of ſurprize, mixed with indignation, 'What d'ye want? what d'ye 'want? what d'ye want, ho?' The ſpirit replied, 'We are ſent to warn 'thee of thy fate.'—'From whence, 'ho?' cried the captain, whoſe choler had by this time well-nigh triumphed over his fear. 'From Heaven,' ſaid the voice. 'Ye lye, ye b—s of hell!' did our novice exclaim; 'ye are damn-'ed for heaving me out of my right 'five fathom and a half by the lead, 'in burning brimſtone. Don't I ſee 'the blue flames come out of your 'hawſe-holes—mayhap you may be the 'devil himſelf, for aught I know—but 'I truſt in the Lord, d'ye ſee—I never 'diſrated a kinſman, d'ye ſee, ſo don't 'come along ſide of me—put about on 'th' other tack, d'ye ſee—you need not 'clap hard a weather, for you'll ſoon 'get to hell again with a flowing ſail.'

So ſaying, he had recourſe to his Paternoſter; but perceiving the apparitions approach, he thundered out, 'Avaſt—avaſt—ſteer off, ye babes of 'hell, or I'll be foul of your fore-'lights.' He accordingly ſprung forwards with his hanger, and very probably would have ſet the ſpirits on their way to the other world, had he not fallen over a pew in the dark, and entangled himſelf ſo much among the benches, that he could not immediately recover his footing. The triumvirate took this opportunity to retire; and ſuch was the precipitation of Ferret in his retreat, that he encountered a poſt, by which his right-eye ſuſtained conſiderable damage; a circumſtance which induced him to inveigh bitterly againſt his own folly, as well as the impertinence of his companions, who had inveigled him into ſuch a troubleſome adventure. Neither he nor Clarke could be prevailed upon to reviſit the novice. The doctor himſelf thought his diſeaſe was deſperate; and, mounting his horſe, returned to his own habitation.

Ferret, finding all the beds in the publick-houſe were occupied, compoſed himſelf to ſleep in a Windſor-chair at the chimney-corner; and Mr. Clarke, whoſe diſpoſition was extremely amorous, reſolved to renew his practices on the heart of Dolly. He had reconnoitred the apartments in which the bodies of the knight and his ſquire were depoſited; and diſcovered, cloſe by the top of the ſtair-caſe, a ſort of cloſet or hovel, juſt large enough to contain a truckle-bed, which, from ſome other particulars, he ſuppoſed to be the bed-chamber of his beloved Dolly, who had by this time retired to her repoſe. Full of this idea, and inſtigated by the demon of deſire, Mr. Thomas crept ſoftly up ſtairs, and lifting the latch of the cloſet-door, his heart began to palpitate with joyous expectation; but before he could breathe the gentle effuſions of his love, the ſuppoſed damſel ſtarted up, and ſeizing him by the collar with an Herculean gripe, uttered in the voice of Crabſhaw, 'It wa'n't for nothing that 'I dreamed of Newgate, ſirrah; but 'I'd have thee to know, an arrant 'ſquire is not to be robbed by ſuch a 'peddling thief as thee—here I'll howld 'thee faſt, and the devil were in thy 'doublet—help! murder! vire! Help!'

It was impoſſible for Mr. Clarke to diſengage himſelf, and equally impracticable to ſpeak in his own vindication; ſo that here he ſtood trembling and half throttled, until the whole houſe being alarmed, the landlady and her oſtler ran up ſtairs with a candle. When the light rendered objects viſible, an equal aſtoniſhment prevailed on all ſides; Crabſhaw was confounded at ſight of Mr. Clarke, whoſe perſon he well knew; and releaſing him inſtantly from his graſp, 'Bodikins!' cried he, 'I be-'lieve as how this houſe is haunted—'who thought to meet with Meaſter 'Lawyer Clarke at midnight, and ſo 'far from hoam.' The landlady could not comprehend the meaning of this encounter; nor could Tom conceive how Crabſhaw had tranſported himſelf hither from the room below, in which he ſaw him quietly repoſed. Yet nothing was more eaſy than to explain this myſtery; the apartment below was the chamber which the hoſteſs and her daughter reſerved for their own convenience; and this particular having been intimated to the ſquire while he was at ſupper, he had reſigned the bed quietly, and been conducted hither in the abſence of the company. Tom, recollecting himſelf as well as he could, profeſſed himſelf of Crabſhaw's opinion, that the houſe was haunted, declaring that he could not well account for his being there in the dark; and leaving thoſe that were aſſembled to diſcuſs this knotty point, retired down ſtairs, in hope of meeting with his charmer, whom

whom accordingly he found in the kitchen just risen, and wrapped in a loose dishabille.

The noise of Crabshaw's cries had awakened and aroused his master, who rising suddenly in the dark, snatched up his sword that lay by his bed-side, and hastened to the scene of tumult, where all their mouths were opened at once to explain the cause of their disturbance, and make an apology for breaking his honour's rest. He said nothing; but taking the candle in his hand, beckoned to his squire to follow him into his apartment, resolving to arm and take horse immediately. Crabshaw understood his meaning; and while he shuffled on his cloaths, yawning hideously all the while, wished the lawyer at the devil for having visited him so unseasonably; and even cursed himself for the noise he had made, in consequence of which he foresaw he should now be obliged to forfeit his night's rest, and travel in the dark, exposed to the inclemencies of the weather. 'Pox rot thee, Tom Clarke, 'for a wicked lawyer!' said he to himself; 'hadst thou been hanged at Bartle-'my-tide, I should this night have 'slept in peace, that I should—an I 'would there was a blister on this 'plaguy tongue of mine for making 'such a hallooballoo, that I do!—Five 'gallons of cold water has my poor 'belly been drenched with since night 'fell, so as my reins and my liver are 'all one as if they were turned into 'ice, and my whole harslet shakes and 'shivers like a phial of quicksilver. I 'have been dragged, half-drowned like 'a rotten ewe, from the bottom of a 'river; and who knows but I may be 'next dragged quite dead from the bot-'tom of a coal-pit—if so be as I am, I 'shall go to hell, to be sure, for being 'conjarned like in my own moorder, 'that I will, so I will; for a plague on 'it, I had no business with the vaga-'ries of this crazy-peated measter of 'of mine; a pox on him, say I!'

He had just finished this soliloquy as he entered the apartment of his master, who desired to know what was become of his armour. Timothy, understanding that it had been left in the room when the knight undressed, began to scratch his head in great perplexity; and at last declared it as his opinion, that it must have been carried off by witchcraft. Then he related his adventure with Tom Clarke; who, he said, was conveyed to his bedside he knew not how; and concluded with affirming they were no better than Papishes who did not believe in witchcraft. Sir Launcelot could not help smiling at his simplicity; but assuming a peremptory air, he commanded him to fetch the armour without delay, that he might afterwards saddle the horses, in order to prosecute their journey.

Timothy retired in great tribulation to the kitchen; where finding the misanthrope, whom the noise had also disturbed, and still impressed with the notion of his being a conjuror, he offered him a shilling if he would cast a figure, and let him know what was become of his master's armour.

Ferret, in hope of producing more mischief, informed him without hesitation, that one of the company had conveyed it into the chancel of the church, where he would now find it deposited; at the same time presenting him with the key, which Mr. Fillet had left in his custody.

The squire, who was none of those who set hobgoblins at defiance, being afraid to enter the church alone at these hours, bargained with the ostler to accompany and light him with a lanthorn. Thus attended, he advanced to the place where the armour lay in a heap, and loaded it upon the back of his attendant without molestation, the launce being shouldered over the whole. In this equipage they were just going to retire, when the ostler hearing a noise at some distance, wheeled about with such velocity, that one end of the spear saluting Crabshaw's pate, the poor squire measured his length on the ground; and crushing the lanthorn in his fall, the light was extinguished. The other, terrified at these effects of his own sudden motion, threw down his burden; and would have betaken himself to flight, had not Crabshaw laid fast hold on his leg, that he himself might not be deserted. The sound of the pieces clattering on the pavement, roused Captain Crowe from a trance or slumber, in which he had lain since the apparition vanished; and he hallooed, or rather bellowed, with vast vociferation. Timothy and his friend were so intimidated by this terrific strain, that they thought no more of the armour, but ran home

home arm in arm, and appeared in the kitchen with all the marks of horror and conſternation.

When Sir Launcelot came forth wrapped in his cloak, and demanded his arms, Crabſhaw declared that the devil had them in poſſeſſion; and this aſſertion was confirmed by the oſtler, who pretended to know the devil by his roar. Ferret ſat in his corner, maintaining the moſt mortifying ſilence, and enjoying the impatience of the knight, who in vain requeſted an explanation of this myſtery. At length his eyes began to lighten; when ſeizing Crabſhaw in one hand, and the oſtler in the other, he ſwore by Heaven he would daſh their ſouls out, and raze the houſe to the foundation, if they did not inſtantly diſcloſe the particulars of this tranſaction. The good woman fell on her knees, proteſting, in the name of the Lord, that ſhe was innocent as the child unborn, thof ſhe had lent the captain a prayer-book to learn the Lord's Prayer, a candle and lanthorn to light him to the church, and a couple of clean ſheets for the uſe of the other gentlemen. The knight was more and more puzzled by this declaration; when Mr. Clarke, coming into the kitchen, preſented himſelf with a low obeiſance to his old patron.

Sir Launcelot's anger was immediately converted into ſurprize. He ſet at liberty the ſquire and the oſtler; and ſtretching out his hand to the lawyer, 'My good friend, Clarke,' ſaid he, 'how came you hither? Can you ſolve 'this knotty point which hath involved 'us all in ſuch confuſion?'

Tom forthwith began a very circumſtantial recapitulation of what had happened to his uncle; in what manner he had been diſappointed of the eſtate; how he had accidentally ſeen his honour, been enamoured of his character, and become ambitious of following his example. Then he related the particulars of the plan which had been laid down to divert him from his deſign; and concluded with aſſuring the knight, that the captain was a very honeſt man, though he ſeemed to be a little diſordered in his intellects. 'I believe it,' replied Sir Launcelot; 'madneſs and 'honeſty are not incompatible—indeed, 'I feel it by experience.'

Tom proceeded to aſk pardon, in his uncle's name, for having made ſo free with the knight's armour; and begged his honour, for the love of God, would uſe his authority with Crowe that he might quit all thoughts of knight-errantry, for which he was by no means qualified; for being totally ignorant of the laws of the land, he would be continually committing treſpaſſes, and bring himſelf into trouble. He ſaid, in caſe he ſhould prove refractory, he might be apprehended by virtue of a friendly warrant, for having feloniouſly carried off the knight's accoutrements. 'Taking away another man's move-'ables,' ſaid he, 'and perſonal goods, 'againſt the will of the owner, is *furtum*, and felony according to the ſta-'tute: different, indeed, from *robbery*, 'which implies putting in fear on the 'king's highway, *in alta via regia* '*violenter et felonice captum et aſportatum, in magnum terrorem, &c.* 'for if the robbery be laid in the in-'dictment as done *in quadam via pe-'deſtri*, in a foot-path, the offender 'will not be ouſted of his clergy. It 'muſt be *in alta via regia*; and your 'honour will pleaſe to take notice, that 'robberies committed on the river 'Thames are adjudged as done *in alta* '*via regia*; for the king's high-ſtream 'is all the ſame as the king's high-'way.'

Sir Launcelot could not help ſmiling at Tom's learned inveſtigation. He congratulated him on the progreſs he had made in the ſtudy of the law. He expreſſed his concern at the ſtrange turn the captain had taken, and promiſed to uſe his influence in perſuading him to deſiſt from the prepoſterous deſign he had formed.

The lawyer, thus aſſured, repaired immediately to the church, accompanied by the ſquire, and held a parley with his uncle; who, when he underſtood that the knight in perſon deſired a conference, ſurrendered up the arms quietly, and returned to the publick-houſe.

Sir Launcelot received the honeſt ſeaman with his uſual complacency; and perceiving great diſcompoſure in his looks, ſaid, he was ſorry to hear he had paſſed ſuch a diſagreeable night to ſo little purpoſe. Crowe, having recruited his ſpirits with a bumper of brandy, thanked him for his concern, and obſerved, that he had paſſed many a hard night in his time, but ſuch ano-

ther as this he would not be bound to weather for the command of the whole British navy. 'I have seen Davy Jones 'in the shape of a blue flame, d'ye 'see, hopping to and fro on the sprit-'sail yard-arm; and I've seen your 'Jacks o'the Lanthorn, and Wills o'the 'Wisp, and many such spirits, both 'by sea and land; but to-night I've 'been boarded by all the devils and 'damned souls in hell, squeaking and 'squalling, and glimmering and glar-'ing. Bounce went the door—crack 'went the pew—crash came the tackle '—white-sheeted ghosts dancing in one 'corner by the glow-worm's light—'black devils hobbling in another—'Lord have mercy upon us!—and I 'was hailed, Tom—I was—by my 'grandmother Jane, and my aunt Bridg-'get, d'ye see—a couple of damn'd '——: but they're roasting; that's 'one comfort, my lad.'

When he had thus disburdened his conscience, Sir Launcelot introduced the subject of the new occupation at which he aspired. 'I understand,' said he, 'that you are desirous of tread-'ing the paths of errantry, which, I 'assure you, are thorny and trouble-'some. Nevertheless, as your purpose 'is to exercise your humanity and be-'nevolence, so your ambition is com-'mendable. But towards the practice 'of chivalry there is something more 'required than the virtues of courage 'and generosity. A knight-errant 'ought to understand the sciences, to 'be master of ethicks or morality, to be 'well versed in theology, a compleat 'casuist, and minutely acquainted with 'the laws of his country. He should 'not only be patient of cold, hunger, 'and fatigue; righteous, just, and va-'liant; but also chaste, religious, tem-'perate, polite, and conversable; and 'have all his passions under the rein, 'except love, whose empire he should 'submissively acknowledge.' He said, this was the very essence of chivalry; and no man had ever made such a pro-fession of arms without having first placed his affection upon some beauteous object, for whose honour, and at whose command, he would chearfully encounter the most dreadful perils.

He took notice that nothing could be more irregular than the manner in which Crowe had attempted to keep his vigil, for he had never served his noviciate—he had not prepared himself with abstinence and prayer—he had not provided a qualified godfather for the ceremony of dubbing—he had no armour of his own to wake; but, on the very thre-shold of chivalry, which is the perfec-tion of justice, had unjustly purloined the arms of another knight; that this was a mere mockery of a religious in-stitution, and therefore unpleasing in the sight of Heaven; witness the dæ-mons and hobgoblins that were permit-ted to disturb and torment him in his trial.

Crowe having listened to these remarks with earnest attention, replied, after some hesitation, 'I am bound to you, 'brother, for your kind and Christian 'counsel—I doubt as how I've steered 'by a wrong chart, d'ye see—as for 'the matter of the sciences, to be sure, 'I know plain-sailing and Mercator; 'and am an indifferent good seaman; 'thof I say it that should not say it; 'but as to all the rest, no better than 'the viol-block or the geer-capstan. 'Religion I han't much overhauled; 'and we tars laugh at your polite con-'versation—thof, mayhap, we can 'chaunt a few ballads to keep the 'hands awake in the night-watch; then 'for chastity, brother, I doubt that's 'not to be expected in a sailor just 'come ashore after a long voyage—'sure all those poor hearts won't be 'damned for steering in the wake of 'nature. As for a sweetheart, Bet 'Mizen, of St. Catherine's, would fit 'me to a hair—she and I are old mess-'mates; and——what signifies talk-'ing, brother; she knows already the 'trim of my vessel, d'ye see!' He con-cluded with saying, he thought he wa'n't too old to learn; and if Sir Launcelot would take him in tow, as his tender, he would stand by him all weathers, and it should not cost his con-sort a farthing's expence.

The knight said, he did not think himself of consequence enough to have such a pupil, but should always be rea-dy to give him his best advice; as a spe-cimen of which, he exhorted him to weigh all the circumstances, and deli-berate calmly and leisurely before he actually engaged in such a boisterous profession; assuring him, that if, at the end of three months, his resolution should continue, he would take upon himself the office of his instructor. In

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the mean time, he gratified the hoſteſs for his lodging; put on his armour; took leave of the company; and, mounting Bronzomarte, proceeded ſoutherly, being attended by his ſquire, Crabſhaw, grumbling on the back of Gilbert.

CHAP. VIII.

WHICH IS WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH OF PROVING HIGHLY INTERESTING.

LEAVING Captain Crowe and his nephew for the preſent, though they, and even the miſanthrope, will reappear in due ſeaſon; we are now obliged to attend the progreſs of the knight, who proceeded in a ſoutherly direction, inſenſible of the ſtorm that blew, as well as of the darkneſs, which was horrible. For ſome time Crabſhaw ejaculated curſes in ſilence; till at length his anger gave way to his fear, which waxed ſo ſtrong upon him, that he could no longer reſiſt the deſire of alleviating it, by entering into a converſation with his maſter. By way of introduction, he gave Gilbert the ſpur, directing him towards the flank of Bronzomarte, which he encountered with ſuch a ſhock, that the knight was almoſt diſmounted. When Sir Launcelot, with ſome warmth, aſked the reaſon of this attack, the ſquire replied in theſe words: 'The 'devil (God bleſs us!) mun be playing 'his pranks with Gilbert too, as ſure 'as I'm a living ſoul!—I'ſe wage a 'teaſter, the foul fiend has left the ſea-'man, and got into Gilbert, that he 'has—when a has paſſed through an 'aſs and a horſe, I'ſe marvel what 'beaſt a will get into next.'—'Probably into a mule;' ſaid the knight: 'in that caſe you will be in ſome 'danger—but I can at any time diſ-'poſſeſs you with a horſewhip.'—'Aye, aye,' anſwered Timothy, 'your 'honour has a mortal good hand at 'giving a flap with a fox's tail, as the 'ſaying is—'tis a wonderment you did 'not try your hand on that there wiſe-'acre that ſtole your honour's harneſs, 'and wants to be an arrant, with a 'murrain to 'un.—Lord help his fool's 'head, it becomes him as a ſow doth a 'a cart-ſaddle.'—'There is no guilt 'in infirmity,' ſaid the knight; 'I pu-'niſh the vicious only.'—'I would 'your honour would puniſh Gilbert, 'then,' cried the ſquire, 'for 'tis the 'moſt vicious tuoad that ever I laid a 'leg over—but as to that ſame ſea-faring 'man, what may his diſtemper be?'—'Madneſs,' anſwered Sir Launcelot.—'Bodikins!' exclaimed the ſquire; 'I 'doubt as how other volks are leame 'of the ſame leg—but a'n't vor ſuch 'ſmall gentry as he to be mad; they 'mun leave that to their betters.'—'You ſeem to hint at me, Crabſhaw: 'do you really think I am mad?'—'I 'may ſay as how I have looked your 'honour in the mouth; and a ſorry 'dog ſhould I be, if I did not know 'your humours as well as I know e'er 'a beaſt in the ſteable at Greaveſbury 'Hall.'—'Since you are ſo well ac-'quainted with my madneſs,' ſaid the knight, 'what opinion have you of 'yourſelf, who ſerve and follow a lu-'natick?'—'I hope I han't ſerved your 'honour for nothing, but I ſhall in-'herit ſome of your caſt vagaries—'when your honour is pleaſed to be 'mad, I ſhould be very ſorry to be 'found right in my ſenſes. Timothy 'Crabſhaw will never eat the bread of 'unthankfulneſs—it ſhall never be ſaid 'of him that he was wiſer than his 'meaſter: as for the matter of follow-'ing a madman, we may ſee your ho-'nour's face is made of a fiddle; every 'one that looks on you loves you.' This compliment the knight returned by ſaying, 'If my face is a fiddle, 'Crabſhaw, your tongue is a fiddle-'ſtick that plays upon it—yet your mu-'ſick is very diſagreeable—you don't 'keep time.'—'Nor you neither, mea-'ſter,' cried Timothy; 'or we ſhoudn't 'be here wandering about under cloud 'of night, like ſheep-ſtealers, or evil 'ſpirits with troubled conſciences.'

Here the diſcourſe was interrupted by a ſudden diſaſter, in conſequence of which the ſquire uttered an inarticulate roar that ſtartled the knight himſelf, who was very little ſubject to the ſenſation of fear; but his ſurprize was changed into vexation when he perceived Gilbert without a rider, paſſing by, and kicking his heels with great agility. He forthwith turned his ſteed; and riding back a few paces, found Crabſhaw riſing from the ground. When he aſked what was become of his horſe, he anſwered in a whimpering tone, 'Horſe! would I could once ſee him

'fairly carrion for the hounds—for my 'part, I believe as how 'tis no horſe, but 'a devil incarnate; and yet I've been 'worſe mounted, that I have—I'd like 'to have rid a horſe that was foaled of 'an acorn.'

This accident happened in a hollow way overſhadowed with trees, one of which the ſtorm had blown down, ſo that it lay over the road; and one of it's boughs projecting horizontally, encountered the ſquire as he trotted along in the dark. Chancing to hitch under his long chin, he could not diſengage himſelf, but hung ſuſpended like a flitch of bacon; while Gilbert, puſhing forward, left him dangling, and, by his aukward gambols, ſeemed to be pleaſed with the joke. This capricious animal was not retaken without the perſonal endeavours of the knight; for Crabſhaw abſolutely refuſing to budge a foot from his honour's ſide, he was obliged to alight, and faſten Bronzomarte to a tree; then they ſet out together, and with ſome difficulty found Gilbert, with his neck ſtretched over a five-barred gate, ſnuffing up the morning air. The ſquire, however, was not remounted, without having firſt undergone a ſevere reprehenſion from his maſter, who upbraided him with his cowardice, threatened to chaſtiſe him on the ſpot, and declared that he would divorce his daſtardly ſoul from his body, ſhould he ever be incommoded or affronted with another inſtance of his baſe-born apprehenſion.

Though there was ſome riſque in carrying on the altercation at this juncture, Timothy having bound up his jaws, could not withſtand the inclination he had to confute his maſter. He therefore, in a muttering accent, proteſted, that if the knight would give him leave, he ſhould prove that his honour had tied a knot with his tongue which he could not untie with all his teeth. 'How, caitiff,' cried Sir Launcelot, 'preſume to contend with me in argu'ment!'—'Your mouth is ſcarce ſhut,' ſaid the other, 'ſince you declared that 'a man was not to be puniſhed for 'madneſs, becauſe it was a diſtemper: 'now I will maintain, that cowardice 'is a diſtemper as well as madneſs; 'for nobody would be afraid if he 'could help it.'—'There's more logick 'in that remark,' reſumed the knight, 'than I expected from your clod-pate, 'Crabſhaw: but I muſt explain the difference between cowardice and madneſs. Cowardice, though ſometimes 'the effect of natural imbecillity, is 'generally a prejudice of education, or 'bad habit contracted from miſinformation or miſapprehenſion, and may 'certainly be cured by experience and 'the exerciſe of reaſon: but this remedy cannot be applied in madneſs, 'which is a privation or diſorder of 'reaſon itſelf.'—'So is cowardice, as 'I'm a living ſoul,' exclaimed the ſquire; 'don't you ſay a man is frighten'ed out of his ſenſes? For my peart, 'meaſter, I can neither ſee nor hear, 'much leſs argufy, when I'm in ſuch 'a quandary; wherefore, I do believe, 'odds bodikins! that cowardice and 'madneſs are both diſtempers, and 'differ no more than the hot and cold 'fits of an ague. When it teakes your 'honour, you're all heat and fire and 'fury, Lord bleſs us! but when it 'catches poor Tim, he's cold and dead'hearted; he ſheakes and ſhivers like 'an aſpen-leaf, that he does.'—'In 'that caſe,' anſwered the knight, 'I 'ſhall not puniſh you for the diſtemper 'which you cannot help, but for engaging in a ſervice expoſed to perils, 'when you knew your own infirmity; 'in the ſame manner as a man deſerves 'puniſhment who enliſts himſelf for 'a ſoldier while he labours under any 'ſecret diſeaſe.'—'At that rate,' ſaid the ſquire, 'my bread is like to be rare'ly buttered o'both ſides, I faith! 'But I hope, as by the bleſſing of God 'I have run mad, ſo I ſhall in good 'time grow valiant under your ho'nour's precept and example.'

By this time a very diſagreeable night was ſucceeded by a fair, bright morning, and a market-town appeared at the diſtance of three or four miles; when Crabſhaw, having no longer the fear of hobgoblins before his eyes, and being moreover cheared by the ſight of a place where he hoped to meet with comfortable entertainment, began to talk big, to expatiate on the folly of being afraid, and finally ſet all danger at defiance; when all of a ſudden he was preſented with an opportunity of putting in practice thoſe new-adopted maxims. In an opening between two lanes, they perceived a gentleman's coach ſtopped by two highwaymen on horſeback, one of whom advanced to reconnoitre and keep the

the coaſt clear, while the other exacted contribution from the travellers in the coach. He who acted as centinel no ſooner ſaw our adventurer appearing from the lane, than he rode up with a piſtol in his hand, and ordered him to halt on pain of immediate death.

To this peremptory mandate the knight made no other reply than charging him with ſuch impetuoſity that he was unhorſed in a twinkling, and lay ſprawling on the ground, ſeemingly ſore bruiſed with his fall. Sir Launcelot, commanding Timothy to alight and ſecure the priſoner, couched his launce, and rode full ſpeed at the other highwayman, who was not a little diſturbed at ſight of ſuch an apparition. Nevertheleſs, he fired his piſtol without effect; and, clapping ſpurs to his horſe, fled away at full gallop. The knight purſued him with all the ſpeed that Bronzomarte could exert; but the robber being mounted on a ſwift hunter, kept him at a diſtance; and, after a chace of ſeveral miles, eſcaped through a wood ſo entangled with coppice, that Sir Launcelot thought proper to deſiſt. He then, for the firſt time, recollected the ſituation in which he had left the other thief; and remembering to have heard a female ſhriek as he paſſed by the coach-window, reſolved to return with all expedition, that he might make a proffer of his ſervice to the lady, according to the obligation of knight-errantry. But he had loſt his way; and after an hour's ride, during which he traverſed many a field, and circled divers hedges, he found himſelf in the market-town aforementioned. Here the firſt object that preſented itſelf to his eyes was Crabſhaw on foot, ſurrounded by a mob, tearing his hair, ſtamping with his feet, and roaring out, in manifeſt diſtraction, 'Shew me the 'mayor, (for the love of God!) ſhew 'me the mayor!—O Gilbert, Gilbert! 'a murrain take thee, Gilbert! ſure 'thou waſt foaled for my deſtruction!'

From theſe exclamations, and the antick dreſs of the ſquire, the people, not without reaſon, concluded that the poor ſoul had loſt his wits; and the beadle was juſt going to ſecure him, when the knight interpoſed, and at once attracted the whole attention of the populace. Timothy, ſeeing his maſter, fell down on his knees, crying, 'The thief has 'run away with Gilbert—you may 'pound me into a peaſt, as the ſaying 'is: but now I'ſe as mad as your 'worſhip, an't afeard of the devil and 'all his works.' Sir Launcelot deſiring the beadle would forbear, was inſtantly obeyed by that officer, who had no inclination to put the authority of his place in competition with the power of ſuch a figure, armed at all points, mounted on a fiery ſteed, and ready for the combat. He ordered Crabſhaw to attend him to the next inn, where he alighted; then taking him into a ſeparate apartment, demanded an explanation of the unconnected words he had uttered.

The ſquire was in ſuch agitation, that, with infinite difficulty, and by dint of a thouſand different queſtions, his maſter learned the adventure to this effect. Crabſhaw, according to Sir Launcelot's command, had alighted from his horſe, and drawn his cutlaſs, in hope of intimidating the diſcomfited robber into a tame ſurrender, though he did not at all reliſh the nature of the ſervice; but the thief was neither ſo much hurt, nor ſo tame as Timothy had imagined. He ſtarted on his feet, with his piſtol ſtill in his hand; and preſenting it to the ſquire, ſwore, with dreadful imprecations, that he would blow his brains out in an inſtant. Crabſhaw, unwilling to hazard the trial of this experiment, turned his back, and fled with great precipitation; while the robber, whoſe horſe had run away, mounted Gilbert, and rode off acroſs the country. It was at this period that two footmen belonging to the coach, who had ſtayed behind to take their morning's whet at the inn where they lodged, came up to the aſſiſtance of the ladies, armed with blunderbuſſes; and the carriage proceeded, leaving Timothy alone in diſtraction and deſpair. He knew not which way to turn; and was afraid of remaining on the ſpot, leſt the robbers ſhould come back and revenge themſelves upon him for the diſappointment they had undergone. In this diſtreſs, the firſt thought that occurred was to make the beſt of his way to the town, and demand the aſſiſtance of the civil magiſtrate, towards the retrieval of what he had loſt; a deſign which he executed in ſuch a manner, as juſtly entailed upon him the imputation of lunacy.

While Timothy ſtood fronting the window,

window, and anſwering the interrogations of his maſter, he ſuddenly exclaimed, 'Bodikins! there's Gilbert!' and ſprung into the ſtreet with incredible agility. There finding his ſtrayed companion brought back by one of the footmen who attended the coach, he imprinted a kiſs on his forehead; and hanging about his neck, with the tears in his eyes, hailed his return with the following ſalutation: 'Art thou come 'back, my darling! Ah, Gilbert, Gil-'bert! a pize upon thee! thou hadſt 'like to have been a dear Gilbert to 'me. How couldſt thou break the heart 'of thy old friend, who has known 'thee from a colt? Seven years next 'graſs have I fed thee and bred thee; 'provided thee with ſweet hay, delicate 'corn, and freſh litter, that thou 'mought lie warm, dry, and comfort-'able. Ha'n't I curry-combed thy car-'caſe till it was as ſleek as a ſloe, and 'cheriſhed thee as the apple of mine 'eye? For all that, thou haſt played me 'an hundred dog's tricks; biting, and 'kicking, and plunging, as if the devil 'was in thy body; and now thou 'couldſt run away with a thief, and 'leave me to be flayed alive by mea-'ſter. What canſt thou ſay for thyſelf, 'thou cruel, hard-hearted, unchriſtian 'tuoad?' To this tender expoſtulation, which afforded much entertainment to the boys, Gilbert anſwered not one word; but ſeemed altogether inſenſible to the careſſes of Timothy, who forthwith led him into the ſtable. On the whole, he ſeems to have been an unſocial animal; for it does not appear that he ever contracted any degree of intimacy, even with Bronzomarte, during the whole courſe of their acquaintance and fellowſhip: on the contrary, he has been more than once known to ſignify his averſion by throwing out behind, and other eruptive marks of contempt for that elegant charger, who excelled him as much in perſonal merit as his rider Timothy was outſhone by his all-accompliſhed maſter.

While the ſquire accommodated Gilbert in the ſtable, the knight ſent for the footman who had brought him back; and having preſented him with a liberal acknowledgment, deſired to know in what manner the horſe had been retrieved.

The ſtranger ſatisfied him in this particular, by giving him to underſtand, that the highwayman, perceiving himſelf purſued acroſs the country, plied Gilbert ſo ſeverely with whip and ſpur, that the animal reſented the uſage; and being, beſides, perhaps a little ſtruck with remorſe for having left his old friend Crabſhaw, ſuddenly halted, and ſtood ſtock ſtill, notwithſtanding all the ſtripes and tortures he underwent; or, if he moved at all, it was in a retrograde direction. The thief, ſeeing all his endeavours ineffectual, and himſelf in danger of being overtaken, wiſely quitted his acquiſition, and fled into the boſom of a neighbouring wood.

Then the knight enquired about the ſituation of the lady in the coach, and offered himſelf as her guard and conductor; but was told that ſhe was already ſafely lodged in the houſe of a gentleman at ſome diſtance from the road. He likewiſe learned that ſhe was a perſon diſordered in her ſenſes, under the care and tuition of a widow lady her relation, and that in a day or two they ſhould purſue their journey northward to the place of her habitation.

After the footman had been ſome time diſmiſſed, the knight recollected that he had forgot to aſk the name of the perſon to whom he belonged; and began to be uneaſy at this omiſſion, which indeed was more intereſting than he could imagine: for an explanation of this nature would, in all likelihood, have led to a diſcovery, that the lady in the coach was no other than Miſs Aurelia Darnel, who ſeeing him unexpectedly in ſuch an equipage and attitude as he paſſed the coach, (for his helmet was off) had ſcreamed with ſurprize and terror, and fainted away. Nevertheleſs, when ſhe recovered from her ſwoon, ſhe concealed the real cauſe of her agitation, and none of her attendants were acquainted with the perſon of Sir Launcelot.

The circumſtances of the diſorder under which ſhe was ſaid to labour ſhall be revealed in due courſe. In the mean time our adventurer, though unaccountably affected, never dreamed of ſuch an occurrence; but being very much fatigued, reſolved to indemnify himſelf for the loſs of laſt night's repoſe; and this happened to be one of the few things in which Crabſhaw felt an ambition to follow his maſter's example.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

WHICH MAY SERVE TO SHEW, THAT TRUE PATRIOTISM IS OF NO PARTY.

THE knight had not enjoyed his repoſe above two hours, when he was diſturbed by ſuch a variety of noiſes as might have diſcompoſed a brain of the firmeſt texture. The rumbling of carriages, and the rattling of horſes feet upon the pavement, were intermingled with loud ſhouts, and the noiſe of fiddle, French-horn, and bagpipe. A loud peal was heard ringing in the church-tower at ſome diſtance, while the inn reſounded with clamour, confuſion, and uproar.

Sir Launcelot being thus alarmed, ſtarted from his bed; and running to the window, beheld a cavalcade of perſons well mounted, and diſtinguiſhed by blue cockades. They were generally attired like jockies, with gold-laced hats and buck-ſkin breeches; and, one of them bore a ſtandard of blue ſilk, inſcribed, in white letters, with 'LIBERTY AND THE LANDED INTEREST.' He who rode at their head was a jolly figure, of a florid complexion and round belly, ſeemingly turned of fifty, and, in all appearance, of a cholerick diſpoſition. As they approached the market-place, they waved their hats, huzza'd, and cried aloud, 'NO FOREIGN CONNECTIONS!—OLD ENGLAND FOR EVER!' This acclamation, however, was not ſo loud or univerſal, but that our adventurer could diſtinctly hear a counter-cry from the populace, of 'NO SLAVERY—NO POPISH PRETENDER.' An inſinuation ſo ill-reliſhed by the cavaliers, that they began to ply their horſewhips among the multitude; and were, in their turn, ſaluted with a diſcharge or volley of ſtones, dirt, and dead cats; in conſequence of which ſome teeth were demoliſhed, and many ſurtouts defiled.

Our adventurer's attention was ſoon called off from this ſcene to contemplate another proceſſion of people on foot, adorned with bunches of orange ribbands, attended by a regular band of muſick, playing '*God ſave great George our king*,' and headed by a thin, ſwarthy perſonage, of a ſallow aſpect and large goggling eyes, arched over with two thick ſemicircles of hair, or rather briſtles, jet black, and frowzy. His apparel was very gorgeous, though his addreſs was very aukward: he was accompanied by the mayor, recorder, and heads of the corporation, in their formalities. His enſigns were known by the inſcription, '*Liberty of Conſcience, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion*;' and the people ſaluted him as he paſſed with repeated chears, that ſeemed to prognoſticate ſucceſs. He had particularly ingratiated himſelf with the good women who lined the ſtreet, and ſent forth many ejaculatory petitions in his favour.

Sir Launcelot immediately comprehended the meaning of this ſolemnity: he perceived it was the prelude to the election of a member to repreſent the county in parliament; and he was ſeized with an eager deſire to know the names and characters of the competitors.

In order to gratify this deſire, he made repeated application to the bell-rope that depended from the cieling of this apartment; but this produced nothing, except the repetition of the words, 'Coming, Sir!' which echoed from three or four different corners of the houſe. The waiters were ſo diſtracted by a variety of calls, that they ſtood motionleſs, in the ſtate of the ſchoolman's aſs between two bundles of hay, incapable of determining where they ſhould firſt offer their attendance.

Our knight's patience was almoſt exhauſted, when Crabſhaw entered the room in a very ſtrange equipage: one half of his face appeared cloſe ſhaved, and the other covered with lather, while the blood trickled in two rivulets from his noſe, upon a barber's cloth that was tucked under his chin; he looked grim with indignation; and, under his left-arm carried his cutlaſs, unſheathed. Where he had acquired ſo much of the profeſſion of knight-errantry, we ſhall not pretend to determine; but, certain it is, he fell on his knees before Sir Launcelot, crying, with an accent of grief and diſtraction, 'In the name of 'St. George for England, I beg a boon, 'Sir Knight, and thy compliance I 'demand, before the peacock and the 'ladies.'

Sir Launcelot, aſtoniſhed at this addreſs, replied, in a lofty ſtrain, 'Valiant 'ſquire, thy boon is granted, provided 'it doth not contravene the laws of the 'land,

'land, and the conſtitutions of chi-
'valry.'—'Then I crave leave,' anſwered Crabſhaw, 'to challenge and
'defy to mortal combat that caitiff
'barber, who hath left me in this pi-
'teous condition; and I vow by the
'peacock, that I will not ſhave my
'beard until I have ſhaved his head
'from his ſhoulders: ſo may I thrive in
'the occupation of an arrant ſquire.'

Before his maſter had time to enquire into particulars, they were joined by a decent man in boots, who was likewiſe a traveller, and had ſeen the riſe and progreſs of Timothy's diſaſter. He gave the knight to underſtand that Crabſhaw had ſent for a barber, and already undergone one-half of the operation, when the operator received the long-expected meſſage from both the gentlemen who ſtood candidates at the election. The double ſummons was no ſooner intimated to him, than he threw down his baſon, and retired with precipitation, leaving the ſquire in the ſuds. Timothy, incenſed at this deſertion, followed him with equal celerity into the ſtreet, where he collared the ſhaver, and inſiſted upon being entirely trimmed, on pain of the baſtinado. The other finding himſelf thus arreſted, and having no time to ſpare for altercation, lifted up his fiſt, and diſcharged it upon the ſnout of Crabſhaw with ſuch force, that the unfortunate aggreſſor was fain to bite the ground; while the victor haſtened away, in hope of touching the double wages of corruption.

The knight being informed of theſe circumſtances, told Timothy, with a ſmile, that he ſhould have liberty to defy the barber; but, in the mean time, he ordered him to ſaddle Bronzomarte, and prepare for immediate ſervice. While the ſquire was thus employed, his maſter engaged in converſation with the ſtranger, who happened to be a London dealer travelling for orders, and was well acquainted with the particulars which our adventurer wanted to know.

It was from this communicative tradeſman he learned that the competitors were Sir Valentine Quickſet and Mr. Iſaac Vanderpelſt; the firſt a mere fox-hunter, who depended for ſucceſs in this election upon his intereſt among the high-flying gentry; the other a ſtock-jobber and contractor, of foreign extract, not without a mixture of Hebrew blood, immenſely rich, who was countenanced by his Grace of ———, and ſuppoſed to have diſtributed large ſums in ſecuring a majority of votes among the yeomanry of the county poſſeſſed of ſmall freeholds, and copyholders, a great number of which laſt reſided in this borough. He ſaid theſe were generally diſſenters and weavers; and that the mayor, who was himſelf a manufacturer, had received a very conſiderable order for exportation; in conſequence of which it was believed he would ſupport Mr. Vanderpelſt with all his influence and credit.

Sir Launcelot, rouzed at this intelligence, called for his armour; which being buckled on in a hurry, he mounted his ſteed, attended by Crabſhaw on Gilbert, and rode immediately into the midſt of the multitude by which the huſtings were ſurrounded, juſt as Sir Valentine Quickſet began to harangue the people from an occaſional theatre formed of a plank ſupported by the upper-board of the publick ſtocks; and an inferior rib of a wooden cage, pitched alſo for the accommodation of petty delinquents.

Though the ſingular appearance of Sir Launcelot at firſt attracted the eyes of all the ſpectators, yet they did not fail to yield attention to the ſpeech of his brother knight Sir Valentine, which ran in the following ſtrain: 'Gentle-
'men vreehoulders of this here county,
'I ſhan't pretend to meake a vine vlou-
'riſhing ſpeech.—I'm a plain ſpoken
'man, as you all know. I hope I ſhall
'always ſpeak my maind without vear
'or vavour, as the zaying is, 'Tis the
'way of the Quickſets—we are no up-
'ſtarts, nor vorreigners, nor have we
'any Jewiſh blood in our veins—we
'have lived in this here neighbourhood
'time out of mind, as you all know;
'and poſſeſs an eſtate of vive thouſand
'clear, which we ſpend at whoam,
'among you, in old Engliſh hoſpitality
'—All my vorevathers have been par-
'liament-men, and I can prove that
'ne'er a one o'um gave a zingle vote
'for the court ſince the Revolution.
'Vor my own peart, I value not the
'miniſtry three ſkips of a louſe, as the
'zaying is—I ne'er knew but one mi-
'niſter that was an honeſt man; and
'vor all the reſt I care not if they were
'hanged as high as Haman, with a pox

to

Stothard del. Blake sculp.

pa: 45

Plate III. Published as the Act directs by Harrison & Co. Sep. 21, 1782.

'to un—I am, thank God, a vree-born, 'true-hearted Engliſhman, and a loyal, 'thof unworthy, ſon of the church—'vor all they have done vor H———r, 'I'd fain know what they have done 'vor the church, with a vengeance—'vor my own peart, I hate all vor-'reigners, and vorreign meaſures, 'whereby this poor nation is broken-'backed with a diſmal load of debt; 'and taxes riſe ſo high that the poor 'cannot get bread. Gentlemen vree-'houlders of this county, I value no 'miniſter a vig's end, d'ye ſee; if you 'will vavour me with your votes and 'intereſt, whereby I may be returned, 'I'll engage one half of my eſtate that 'I never cry *yea* to vour ſhillings in 'the pound, but will croſs the miniſter 'in every thing, as in duty bound, and 'as becomes an honeſt vreehoulder in 'the ould intereſt—but, if you ſell your 'votes and your country for hire, you 'will be deteſted in this here world, 'and damned in the next to all eter-'nity; ſo I leave every man to his own 'conſcience.'

This eloquent oration was received by his own friends with loud peals of applauſe; which, however, did not diſcourage his competitor, who, confident of his own ſtrength, aſcended the roſtrum, or, in other words, an old caſk ſet upright for the purpoſe. Having bowed all round to the audience with a ſmile of gentle condeſcenſion, he told them how ambitious he was of the honour to repreſent this county in parliament; and how happy he found himſelf in the encouragement of his friends, who had ſo unanimouſly agreed to ſupport his pretenſions. He ſaid, over and above the qualification he poſſeſſed among them, he had fourſcore thouſand pounds in his pocket, which he had acquired by commerce, the ſupport of the nation under the preſent happy eſtabliſhment, in defence of which he was ready to ſpend the laſt farthing. He owned himſelf a faithful ſubject to his majeſty King George, ſincerely attached to the Proteſtant ſucceſſion, in deteſtation and defiance of a Popiſh, an abjured, and out-lawed pretender; and declared that he would exhauſt his ſubſtance, and his blood, if neceſſary, in maintaining the principles of the glorious Revolution. 'This,' cried he, 'is the ſolid baſis and 'foundation upon which I ſtand.'

Theſe laſt words had ſcarce proceeded from his mouth, when the head of the barrel or puncheon on which he ſtood, being frail and infirm, gave way; ſo that down he went with a craſh, and in a twinkling diſappeared from the eyes of the aſtoniſhed beholders. The fox-hunters perceiving his diſaſter, exclaimed, in the phraſe and accent of the chace, 'Stole away! ſtole away!' and, with hideous vociferation, joined in the ſylvan chorus which the hunters halloo when the hounds are at fault.

The diſaſter of Mr. Vanderpelft was ſoon repaired by the aſſiduity of his friends, who diſengaged him from the barrel in a trice, hoiſted him on the ſhoulders of four ſtrong weavers; and reſenting the unmannerly exultation of their antagoniſt, began to form themſelves in order of battle.

An obſtinate fray would have undoubtedly enſued, had not their mutual indignation given way to their curioſity, at the motion of our knight, who had advanced into the middle between the two fronts; and waving his hand, as a ſignal for them to give attention, addreſſed himſelf to them, with graceful demeanor, in theſe words: 'Country-'men, friends, and fellow-citizens, you 'are this day aſſembled to determine a 'point of the utmoſt conſequence to 'yourſelves and your poſterity; a point 'that ought to be determined by far 'other weapons than brutal force and 'factious clamour. You, the freemen 'of England, are the baſis of that ex-'cellent conſtitution which hath long 'flouriſhed the object of envy and ad-'miration. To you belongs the in-'eſtimable privilege of chuſing a de-'legate properly qualified to repreſent 'you in the high court of parliament. 'This is your birth-right, inherited 'from your anceſtors, obtained by their 'courage, and ſealed with their blood. 'It is not only your birth-right, which 'you ſhould maintain in defiance of all 'danger, but alſo a ſacred truſt, to be 'executed with the moſt ſcrupulous care 'and fidelity. The perſon whom you 'truſt ought not only to be endued 'with the moſt inflexible integrity, but 'ſhould likewiſe poſſeſs a fund of know-'ledge that may enable him to act as a 'part of the legiſlature. He muſt be 'well acquainted with the hiſtory, the 'conſtitution, and the laws of his 'country; he muſt underſtand the forms 'of buſineſs, the extent of the royal

'prerogative, the privilege of parliament, the detail of government, the nature and regulation of the finances, the different branches of commerce, the politicks that prevail, and the connexions that ſubſiſt among the different powers of Europe; for on all theſe ſubjects the deliberations of a Houſe of Commons occaſionally turn: but theſe great purpoſes will never be anſwered by electing an illiterate ſavage, ſcarce qualified, in point of underſtanding, to act as a country juſtice of peace; a man who has ſcarce ever travelled beyond the excurſion of a fox-chace; whoſe converſation never rambles farther than his ſtable, his kennel, and his barn-yard; who rejects decorum as degeneracy; miſtakes ruſticity for independence; aſcertains his courage by leaping over gates and ditches, and founds his triumph on feats of drinking; who holds his eſtate by a factious tenure; profeſſes himſelf the blind ſlave of a party, without knowing the principles that gave it birth, or the motives by which it is actuated; and thinks that all patriotiſm conſiſts in railing indiſcriminately at miniſters, and obſtinately oppoſing every meaſure of the adminiſtration. Such a man, with no evil intentions of his own, might be uſed as a dangerous tool in the hands of a deſperate faction, by ſcattering the ſeeds of diſaffection, embarraſſing the wheels of government, and reducing the whole kingdom to anarchy.'

Here the knight was interrupted by the ſhouts and acclamations of the Vanderpelfites, who cried aloud, 'Hear him! hear him! Long life to the iron-caſed orator.' This clamour ſubſiding, he proſecuted his harangue to the following effect.

'Such a man as I have deſcribed may be dangerous from ignorance; but is neither ſo miſchievous nor ſo deteſtable as the wretch who knowingly betrays his truſt, and ſues to be the hireling and proſtitute of a weak and worthleſs miniſter; a ſordid knave, without honour or principle; who belongs to no family, whoſe example can reproach him with degeneracy; who has no country to command his reſpect, no friends to engage his affection, no religion to regulate his morals, no conſcience to reſtrain his iniquity, and who worſhips no God but Mammon. An inſinuating miſcreant, who undertakes for the dirtieſt work of the vileſt adminiſtration; who practiſes national uſury, receiving by wholeſale the rewards of venality, and diſtributing the wages of corruption by retail.'

In this place our adventurer's ſpeech was drowned in the acclamations of the fox-hunters, who now triumphed in their turn, and hoickſed the ſpeaker, exclaiming, 'Well opened, Jowler—to 'un, to 'un again, Sweet-lips! hey, Merry, Whitefoot!' After a ſhort interruption, he thus reſumed his diſcourſe.

'When ſuch a caitif preſents himſelf to you, like the devil, with a temptation in his hand, avoid him as if he were in fact the devil—it is not the offering of diſintereſted love; for what ſhould induce him, who has no affections, to love you, to whoſe perſons he is an utter ſtranger? Alas! it is not a benevolence, but a bribe. He wants to buy you at one market, that he may ſell you at another. Without doubt, his intention is to make an advantage of his purchaſe; and this aim he cannot accompliſh, but by ſacrificing, in ſome ſort, your intereſt, your independency, to the wicked deſigns of a miniſter, as he can expect no gratification for the faithful diſcharge of his duty. But, even if he ſhould not find an opportunity of ſelling you to advantage, the crime, the ſhame, the infamy, will ſtill be the ſame in you, who, baſer than the moſt abandoned proſtitutes, have ſold yourſelves and your poſterity for hire—for a paultry price, to be refunded with intereſt by ſome miniſter, who will indemnify himſelf out of your own pockets: for, after all, you are bought and ſold with your own money—the miſerable pittance you may now receive is no more than a pitcher-full of water thrown in to moiſten the ſucker of that pump which will drain you to the bottom. Let me therefore adviſe and exhort you, my countrymen, to avoid the oppoſite extremes of the ignorant clown and the deſigning courtier; and chuſe a man of honeſty, intelligence, and moderation, who will——'

The doctrine of moderation was a very unpopular ſubject in ſuch an aſſembly;

ſembly; and accordingly they rejected it as one man. They began to think the ſtranger wanted to ſet up for himſelf; a ſuppoſition that could not fail to incenſe both ſides equally, as they were both zealouſly engaged in their reſpective cauſes. The whigs and the tories joined againſt this intruder, who being neither, was treated like a monſter, or chimæra in politicks. They hiſſed, they hooted, and they hallooed; they annoyed him with miſſiles of dirt, ſticks, and ſtones; they curſed, they threatened and reviled, till at length his patience was exhauſted.

'Ungrateful and abandoned miſ-'creants!' he cried, 'I ſpoke to you as 'men and Chriſtians, as free-born 'Britons and fellow-citizens; but I 'perceive you are a pack of venal, in-'famous ſcoundrels, and I will treat 'you accordingly.' So ſaying, he brandiſhed his launce; and riding into the thickeſt of the concourſe, laid about him with ſuch dexterity and effect, that the multitude was immediately diſperſed, and he retired without farther moleſtation.

The ſame good fortune did not attend Squire Crabſhaw in his retreat. The ludicrous ſingularity of his features, and the half-mown crop of hair that briſtled from one ſide of his countenance, invited ſome wags to make merry at his expence. One of them clapped a furze-buſh under the tail of Gilbert; who, feeling himſelf thus ſtimulated *à poſteriori*, kicked and plunged, and capered, in ſuch a manner, that Timothy could hardly keep the ſaddle. In this commotion he loſt his cap and his periwig; while the rabble pelted him in ſuch a manner, that, before he could join his maſter, he looked like a pillar, or rather a pillory of mud.

CHAP. X.

WHICH SHEWETH THAT HE WHO PLAYS AT BOWLS WILL SOMETIMES MEET WITH RUBBERS.

SIR Launcelot boiling with indignation at the venality and faction of the electors, whom he had harangued to ſo little purpoſe, retired with the moſt deliberate diſdain towards one of the gates of the town, on the outſide of which his curioſity was attracted by a concourſe of people, in the midſt of whom ſtood Mr. Ferret, mounted upon a ſtool, with a kind of ſatchel hanging round his neck, and a phial diſplayed in his right hand; while he held forth to the audience in a very vehement ſtrain of elocution.

Crabſhaw thought himſelf happily delivered when he reached the ſuburbs, and proceeded without halting; but his maſter mingled with the crowd, and heard the orator expreſs himſelf to this effect.

'Very likely, you may undervalue 'me and my medicine, becauſe I don't 'appear upon a ſtage of rotten boards, 'in a ſhabby velvet coat and tye-peri-'wig, with a fooliſh fellow in a mot-'ley coat, to make you laugh, by 'making wry faces; but I ſcorn to 'uſe theſe dirty arts for engaging your 'attention. Theſe paultry tricks, *ad 'captandum vulgus*, can have no effect 'but on ideots; and if you are ideots, 'I don't deſire you ſhould be my cuſ-'tomers. Take notice, I don't addreſs 'you in the ſtyle of a mountebank, or 'a High German doctor; and yet the 'kingdom is full of mountebanks, 'empyricks, and quacks. We have 'quacks in religion, quacks in phyſick, 'quacks in law, quacks in politicks, 'quacks in patriotiſm, quacks in go-'vernment; High German quacks, that 'have bliſtered, ſweated, bled, and 'purged the nation into an atrophy. 'But this is not all; they have not 'only evacuated her into a conſump-'tion, but they have intoxicated her 'brain until ſhe is become delirious; 'ſhe can no longer purſue her own in-'tereſt, or, indeed, rightly diſtinguiſh it: 'like the people of Nineveh, ſhe can 'hardly tell her right-hand from her 'left; but, as a changeling, is dazzled 'and delighted by an *ignis fatuus*, a 'Will o'the Wiſp, an exhalation from 'the vileſt materials in nature, that 'leads her aſtray through Weſtphalian 'bogs and deſerts, and will one day 'break her neck over ſome barren 'rocks, or leave her ſticking in ſome 'H——n pit or quagmire. For my 'part, if you have a mind to betray 'your country, I have no objection. 'In ſelling yourſelves and your fellow-'citizens, you only diſpoſe of a pack 'of raſcals who deſerve to be ſold—If 'you ſell one another, why ſhould not 'I ſell this here elixir of long life

'which, if properly uſed, will protract your days till you ſhall have ſeen your country ruined? I ſhall not pretend to diſturb your underſtandings, which are none of the ſtrongeſt, with a hotch-potch of unintelligible terms, ſuch as Ariſtotle's four principles of generation, unformed matter, privation, efficient and final cauſes. Ariſtotle was a pedantick blockhead, and ſtill more knave than fool. The ſame cenſure we may ſafely put on that wiſe-acre Dioſcorides, with his faculties of ſimples, his ſeminal, ſpecifick, and principal virtues; and that crazy commentator Galen, with his four elements, elementary qualities, his eight complexions, his harmonies and diſcords. Nor ſhall I expatiate on the alkaheſt of that mad ſcoundrel Paracelſus, with which he pretended to reduce flints into ſalt; nor the *archæus*, or *ſpiritus rector*, of that viſionary Van Helmont, his ſimple, elementary water, his *gas*, ferments, and tranſmutations; nor ſhall I enlarge upon the ſalt, ſulphur, and oil, the *acidum vagum*, the mercury of metals, and the volatilized vitriol of other modern chymiſts; a pack of ignorant, conceited, knaviſh raſcals, that puzzle your weak heads with ſuch jargon, juſt as a Germanized m——r throws duſt in your eyes, by lugging in and ringing the changes on the balance of power, the proteſtant religion, and your allies on the continent; acting like the juggler, who picks your pockets while he dazzles your eyes, and amuſes your fancy with twirling his fingers, and reciting the gibberiſh of *hocus pocus*; for, in fact, the balance of power is a mere chimera: as for the proteſtant religion, nobody gives himſelf any trouble about it; and allies on the continent we have none, or at leaſt none that would raiſe an hundred men to ſave us from perdition, unleſs we paid an extravagant price for their aſſiſtance. But to return to this here elixir of long life; I might embelliſh it with a great many high-ſounding epithets; but I diſdain to follow the example of every illiterate vagabond, that from idleneſs turns quack, and advertiſes his noſtrum in the publick papers. I am neither a ſelonious dry-ſalter returned from exile, an hoſpital ſtump-turner, a decayed ſtay-maker, a bankrupt printer, or inſolvent debtor releaſed by act of parliament. I did not pretend to adminiſter medicines without the leaſt tincture of letters, or ſuborn wretches to perjure themſelves in falſe affidavits of cures that were never performed; nor employ a ſet of led-captains to harangue in my praiſe at all publick places. I was bred regularly to the profeſſion of chymiſtry, and have tried all the proceſſes of alchemy; and I may venture to ſay, that this here elixir is, in fact, the *chruſeon pepuromenon ek puros*, the viſible, glorious, ſpiritual body, from whence all other beings derive their exiſtence, as proceeding from their father the ſun, and their mother the moon; from the ſun, as from a living and ſpiritual gold, which is mere fire; conſequently, the common and univerſal firſt-created mover, from whence all moveable things have their diſtinct and particular motions; and alſo from the moon, as from the wife of the ſun, and the common mother of all ſublunary things: and foraſmuch as man is, and muſt be the comprehenſive end of all creatures, and the microcoſm, he is counſelled in the Revelations to buy gold that is thoroughly fired, or rather pure fire, that he may become rich, and like the ſun; as, on the contrary, he becomes poor when he abuſes the arſenical poiſon; ſo that his ſilver, by the fire, muſt be calcined to a *caput mortuum*, which happens when he will hold and retain the menſtruum, out of which he partly exiſts, for his own property, and doth not daily offer up the ſame in the fire of the ſun, that the woman may be cloathed with the ſun, and become a ſun, and thereby rule over the moon; that is to ſay, that he may get the moon under his feet. Now this here elixir, ſold for no more than ſixpence a phial, contains the eſſence of the alkaheſt, the archæus, the catholicon, the menſtruum, the ſun, moon; and, to ſum up all in one word, is the true, genuine, unadulterated, unchangeable, immaculate, and ſpecific *chruſeon pepuromenon ek puros*.'

The audience were variouſly affected by this learned oration. Some of thoſe who favoured the pretenſions of the whig candidate, were of opinion that he ought to be puniſhed for his preſumption

tion in reflecting ſo ſcurrilouſly on miniſters and meaſures. Of this ſentiment was our adventurer; though he could not help admiring the courage of the orator, and owning within himſelf that he had mixed ſome melancholy truths with his ſcurrility.

Mr. Ferret would not have ſtood ſo long in his roſtrum unmoleſted, had not he cunningly choſen his ſtation immediately without the juriſdiction of the town, whoſe magiſtrates therefore could not take cognizance of his conduct; but application was made to the conſtable of the other pariſh, while our noſtrum-monger proceeded in his ſpeech, the concluſion of which produced ſuch an effect upon his hearers, that his whole cargo was immediately exhauſted. He had juſt ſtepped down from his ſtool, when the conſtable, with his ſtaff, arrived, and took him under his guidance. Mr. Ferret on this occaſion attempted to intereſt the people in his behalf, by exhorting them to vindicate the liberty of the ſubject againſt ſuch an act of oppreſſion; but finding them deaf to the tropes and figures of his elocution, he addreſſed himſelf to our knight, reminding him of his duty to protect the helpleſs and the injured, and earneſtly ſoliciting his interpoſition.

Sir Launcelot, without making the leaſt reply to his entreaties, reſolved to ſee the end of this adventure; and, being joined by his ſquire, followed the priſoner at a diſtance, meaſuring back the ground he had travelled the day before, until he reached another ſmall borough, where Ferret was houſed in the common priſon.

While he ſat a-horſeback, deliberating on the next ſtep he ſhould take, he was accoſted by the voice of Tom Clarke; who called, in a whimpering tone, through a window grated with iron, 'For the love of God, Sir Launcelot! do, dear Sir, be ſo good as to take the trouble to alight and come up ſtairs—I have ſomething to communicate of conſequence to the community in general, and you in particular—Pray, do, dear Sir Knight. I beg a boon in the name of St. Michael and St. George for England.'

Our adventurer, not a little ſurprized at this addreſs, diſmounted without heſitation, and being admitted to the common gaol, there found not only his old friend Tom, but alſo the uncle, ſitting on a bench with a woollen night-cap on his head, and a pair of ſpectacles on his noſe, reading very earneſtly in a book, which he afterwards underſtood was intituled, 'The Life and Adventures of 'Valentine and Orſon.' The captain no ſooner ſaw his great pattern enter, than he roſe and received him with the ſalutation of, 'What cheer, brother?' and before the knight could anſwer, added theſe words: 'You ſee how the 'land lies—here have Tom and I been 'faſt aſhore theſe four and twenty 'hours; and this berth we have got by 'attempting to tow your galley, brother, from the enemy's harbour. 'Adds bobbs! if we had this here fellow whoreſon for a conſort, with all 'our tackle in order, brother, we'd 'ſoon ſhew'em the topſail, ſlip our 'cable, and down with their barricadoes. But, howſomever, it don't 'ſignify talking—patience is a good 'ſtream-anchor, and will hold, as the 'ſaying is—but, damn my—as for the 'matter of my boltſprit.—Hearkye, 'hearkye, brother, d—mn'd hard to engage with three at a time, one upon 'my bow, one upon my quarter, and 'one right a-head, rubbing and drubbing, lying athwart hawſe, raking fore 'and aft, battering and grappling, 'and laſhing and claſhing—adds heart, 'brother; craſh went the boltſprit—'down came the round-top—up with 'the dead-lights—I ſaw nothing but 'the ſtars at noon, loſt the helm of my 'ſeven ſenſes, and down I broached 'upon my broadſide.'

As Mr. Clarke rightly conceived that his uncle would need an interpreter, he began to explain theſe hints by giving a circumſtantial detail of his own and the captain's diſaſter.

He told Sir Launcelot, that notwithſtanding all his perſuaſion and remonſtrances, Captain Crowe inſiſted upon appearing in the character of a knight-errant; and with that view had ſet out from the publick-houſe on the morning that ſucceeded his vigil in the church: that upon the highway they had met with a coach, containing two ladies, one of whom ſeemed to be under great agitation; for, as they paſſed, ſhe ſtruggled with the other, thruſt out her head at the window, and ſaid ſomething which he could not diſtinctly hear; that Captain Crowe was ſtruck with admiration at her unequalled beauty; and

he,

he (Tom) no ſooner informed him who ſhe was, than he reſolved to ſet her at liberty, on the ſuppoſition that ſhe was under reſtraint, and in diſtreſs: that he accordingly unſheathed his cutlaſs, and riding after the coach, commanded the driver to bring to, on pain of death: that one of the ſervants believing the captain to be an highwayman, preſented a blunderbuſs, and in all probability would have ſhot him on the ſpot, had not he (the nephew) rode up, and aſſured them the gentleman was *non compos*; that, notwithſtanding his intimation, all the three attacked him with the butt ends of their horſe-whips, while the coach drove on; and although he laid about him with great fury, at laſt brought him to the ground by a ſtroke on the temple; that Mr. Clarke himſelf then interpoſed in defence of his kinſman, and was alſo ſeverely beaten; that two of the ſervants, having applied to a juſtice of the peace reſiding near the field of battle, he had granted a warrant againſt the captain and his nephew, and, without examination, committed them as idle vagrants, after having ſeized their horſes and their money, on pretence of their being ſuſpected for highwaymen. 'But, as there was no juſt 'cauſe of ſuſpicion,' added he, 'I am 'of opinion the juſtice is guilty of a 'treſpaſs, and may be ſued for *falſum* '*impriſonamentum*, and conſiderable 'damages obtained; for you will pleaſe 'to obſerve, Sir, no juſtice has a right 'to commit any perſon till after due 'examination; beſides, we were not 'committed for an aſſault and battery, '*audità querela*, nor as wandering 'lunaticks by the ſtatute; who, to be 'ſure, may be apprehended by a juſ'tice's warrant, and locked up, and 'chained, if neceſſary, or to be ſent 'to their laſt legal ſettlement; but we 'were committed as vagrants and ſu'ſpected highwaymen. Now we do not 'fall under the deſcription of vagrants; 'nor did any circumſtance appear to 'ſupport the ſuſpicion of robbery: for, 'to conſtitute robbery, there muſt be 'ſomething taken; but here nothing 'was taken but blows, and they were 'upon compulſion. Even an attempt to 'rob, without any taking, is not fe'lony, but a miſdemeanor. To be ſure, 'there is a taking in deed, and a taking 'in law; but ſtill the robber muſt be in 'poſſeſſion of a thing ſtolen; and we only 'attempted to ſteal ourſelves away—I 'My uncle, indeed, would have re'leaſed the young lady *vi et armis*, 'had his ſtrength been equal to his in'clination; and in ſo doing, I would 'have willingly lent my aſſiſtance, both 'from a deſire to ſerve ſuch a beautiful 'young creature, and alſo in regard to 'your honour, for I thought I heard 'her call upon your name.'

'Ha! how! what! whoſe name? 'ſay, ſpeak—heaven and earth!' cried the knight, with marks of the moſt violent emotion. Clarke, terrified at his looks, replied, 'I beg your pardon 'a thouſand times; I did not ſay po'ſitively ſhe did ſpeak thoſe words; 'but I apprehended ſhe did ſpeak them. 'Words, which may be taken or in'terpreted by law in a general or com'mon ſenſe, ought not to receive a 'ſtrained, or unuſual conſtruction; and 'ambiguous words——' 'Speak, or 'be dumb for ever!' exclaimed Sir Launcelot in a terrifick tone, laying his hand on his ſword, 'What young lady, 'ha! What name did ſhe call upon?' Clarke, falling on his knees, anſwered, not without ſtammering, 'Miſs Aure'lia Darnel; to the beſt of my recollec'tion, ſhe called upon Sir Launcelot 'Greaves.'—'Sacred powers!' cried our adventurer, 'which way did the 'carriage proceed?'

When Tom told him that the coach quitted the poſt-road, and ſtruck away to the right at full ſpeed, Sir Launcelot was ſeized with a penſive fit; his head ſunk upon his breaſt, and he muſed in ſilence for ſeveral minutes, with the moſt melancholy expreſſion on his countenance; then recollecting himſelf, he aſſumed a more compoſed and chearful air, and aſked ſeveral queſtions with reſpect to the arms on the coach, and the liveries worn by the ſervants. It was in the courſe of this interrogation that he diſcovered he had actually converſed with one of the footmen who had brought back Crabſhaw's horſe; a circumſtance that filled him with anxiety and chagrin, as he had omitted to enquire the name of his maſter, and the place to which the coach was travelling; though, in all probability, had he made theſe inquiries, he would have received very little ſatisfaction, there being reaſon to think the ſervants were enjoined ſecreſy.

The knight, in order to meditate on this

this unexpected adventure, ſat down by his old friend, and entered into a reverie, which laſted about a quarter of an hour, and might have continued longer, had it not been interrupted by the voice of Crabſhaw; who bawled aloud, 'Look to it, my maſters—as 'you brew you muſt drink—this ſhall 'be a dear day's work to ſome of you; 'for my part, I ſay nothing—the braying aſs eats a little graſs—one barber 'ſhaves not ſo cloſe, but another finds 'a few ſtubble—you wanted to catch a 'capon, and you've ſtole a cat—he that 'takes up his lodgings in a ſtable, muſt 'be contented to lie upon litter.'

The knight, deſirous of knowing the cauſe that prompted Timothy to apothegmatize in this manner, looked through the grate, and perceived the ſquire fairly ſet in the ſtocks, ſurrounded by a mob of people. When he called to him, and aſked the reaſon of this diſgraceful reſtraint, Crabſhaw replied, 'There's no cake, but there's 'another of the ſame make—who never 'climbed, never fell—after clouds 'comes clear weather. 'Tis all along 'of your honour I've met with this 'preferment; no deſervings of my own, 'but the intereſt of my maſter. Sir 'Knight, if you will flay the juſtice, 'hang the conſtable, releaſe your ſquire, 'and burn the town, your name will 'be famous in ſtory; but if you are 'content, I am thankful. Two 'hours are ſoon ſpent in ſuch good 'company. In the mean time, look 'to'un gaoler, there's a frog in the 'ſtocks.'

Sir Launcelot, incenſed at this affront offered to his ſervant, advanced to the priſon-door, but found it faſt locked; and when he called to the turnkey, he was given to underſtand that he himſelf was priſoner. Enraged at this intimation, he demanded at whoſe ſuit; and was anſwered through the wicket, 'At the ſuit of the king, in whoſe 'name I will hold you faſt, with God's 'aſſiſtance.'

The knight's looks now began to lighten, he rolled his eyes around, and ſnatching up an oaken bench, which three ordinary men could ſcarce have lifted from the ground, he, in all likelihood, would have ſhattered the door in pieces, had not he been reſtrained by the interpoſition of Mr. Clarke, who intreated him to have a little patience, aſſuring him he would ſuggeſt a plan that would avenge himſelf amply on the juſtice, without any breach of the peace. 'I ſay, the juſtice,' added Tom, 'becauſe it muſt be his doing. 'He is a little petulant ſort of a fellow, 'ignorant of the law, guilty of numberleſs irregularities; and, if properly managed, may, for this here act 'of arbitrary power, be not only caſt 'in a ſwingeing ſum, but even turned 'out of the commiſſion with diſgrace.'

This was a very ſeaſonable hint; in conſequence of which the bench was ſoftly replaced, and Captain Crowe depoſited the poker, with which he had armed himſelf to ſecond the efforts of Sir Launcelot. They now, for the firſt time, perceived that Ferret had diſappeared; and, upon enquiry, found that he was in fact the occaſion of the knight's detention and the ſquire's diſgrace.

CHAP. XI.

DESCRIPTION OF A MODERN MAGISTRATE.

BEFORE the knight would take any reſolution for extricating himſelf from his preſent embarraſſment, he deſired to be better acquainted with the character and circumſtances of the juſtice by whom he had been confined, and likewiſe to underſtand the meaning of his own detention. To be informed in this laſt particular, he renewed his dialogue with the turnkey; who told him through the grate, that Ferret no ſooner perceived him in the gaol, without his offenſive arms, which he had left below, than he deſired to be carried before the juſtice, where he had given information againſt the knight, as a violator of the publick peace, who ſtrolled about the country with unlawful arms, rendering the highways unſafe, encroaching upon the freedom of elections, putting his majeſty's liege ſubjects in fear of their lives, and, in all probability, harbouring more dangerous deſigns under an affected cloak of lunacy. Ferret, upon this information, had been releaſed and entertained as an evidence for the king; and Crabſhaw was put into the ſtocks, as an idle ſtroller.

Sir Launcelot being ſatisfied in theſe particulars, addreſſed himſelf to his fellow-priſoners, and begged they would communicate

communicate what they knew reſpecting the worthy magiſtrate, who had been ſo premature in the execution of his office. This requeſt was no ſooner ſignified, than a crew of naked wretches crouded around him; and, like a congregation of rooks, opened their throats all at once, in accuſation of Juſtice Gobble. The knight was moved at this ſcene, which he could not help comparing in his own mind to what would appear upon a much more awful occaſion, when the cries of the widow and the orphan, the injured and oppreſſed, would be uttered at the tribunal of an unerring Judge, againſt the villainous and inſolent authors of their calamity.

When he had, with ſome difficulty, quieted their clamours, and confined his interrogation to one perſon of a tolerably decent appearance, he learned that Juſtice Gobble, whoſe father was a taylor, had for ſome time ſerved as a journeyman hoſier in London, where he had picked up ſome law-terms, by converſing with hackney-writers and attorneys clerks of the loweſt order; that, upon the death of his maſter, he had inſinuated himſelf into the good graces of the widow, who took him for her huſband; ſo that he became a perſon of ſome conſideration, and ſaved money apace; that his pride increaſing with his ſubſtance, was reinforced by the vanity of his wife, who perſuaded him to retire from buſineſs, that they might live genteelly in the country; that his father dying, and leaving a couple of houſes in this town, Mr. Gobble had come down with his lady to take poſſeſſion, and liked the place ſo well, as to make a more conſiderable purchaſe in the neighbourhood; that a certain peer being indebted to him in the large way of his buſineſs, and either unwilling, or unable to pay the money, had compounded the debt, by inſerting his name in the commiſſion; ſince which period his own inſolence, and his wife's oſtentation, had exceeded all bounds; that, in the exertion of his authority, he had committed a thouſand acts of cruelty and injuſtice againſt the poorer ſort of people, who were unable to call him to a proper account; that his wife domineered with a more ridiculous, though leſs pernicious uſurpation, among the females of the place; that, in a word, he was the ſubject of continual mirth, and he the object of univerſal deteſtation.

Our adventurer, though extremely well diſpoſed to believe what was ſaid to the prejudice of Gobble, would not give entire credit to this deſcription, without firſt enquiring into the particulars of his conduct. He therefore aſked the ſpeaker, what was the cauſe of his particular complaint. 'For my own 'part, Sir,' ſaid he, 'I lived in re'pute, and kept a ſhop in this here 'town, well furniſhed with a great va'riety of articles. All the people in 'the place were my cuſtomers; but 'what I and many others chiefly de'pended upon, was the extraordinary 'ſale at two annual cuſtomary fairs, to 'which all the country people in the 'neighbourhood reſorted to lay out 'their money. I had employed all my 'ſtock, and even engaged my credit, to 'procure a large aſſortment of goods 'for Lammas Market; but having 'given my vote, in the election of a veſ'try-clerk, contrary to the intereſt of 'Juſtice Gobble, he reſolved to work 'my ruin. He ſuppreſſed the annual 'fairs, by which a great many people, 'eſpecially publicans, earned the beſt 'part of their ſubſiſtence. The coun'try people reſorted to another town. 'I was overſtocked with a load of pe'riſhable commodities; and found my'ſelf deprived of the beſt part of my 'home-cuſtomers by the ill-nature and 'revenge of the juſtice, who employed 'all his influence among the common 'people, making uſe of threats and 'promiſes, to make them deſert my 'ſhop, and give their cuſtom to another 'perſon, whom he ſettled in the ſame 'buſineſs under my noſe. Being thus 'diſabled from making punctual pay'ments, my commodities ſpoiling, and 'my wife breaking her heart, I grew 'negligent and careleſs, took to drink'ing, and my affairs went to wreck. 'Being one day in liquor, and provok'ed by the ſneers and taunts of the man 'who had ſet up againſt me, I ſtruck 'him at his own door; upon which I 'was carried before the juſtice, who 'treated me with ſuch inſolence, that I 'became deſperate, and not only 'abuſed him in the execution of his 'office, but alſo made an attempt to 'lay violent hands upon his perſon. 'You know, Sir, when a man is both 'drunk and deſperate, he cannot be

'ſup-

'ſuppoſed to have any command of 'himſelf. I was ſent hither to gaol. 'My creditors immediately ſeized my 'effects; and, as they were not ſuffi-'cient to diſcharge my debts, a ſtatute 'of bankruptcy was taken out againſt 'me; ſo that here I muſt lie until 'they think proper to ſign my certifi-'cate, or the parliament ſhall pleaſe to 'paſs an act for the relief of inſolvent 'debtors.'

The next perſon who preſented himſelf in the crowd of accuſers was a meagre figure, with a green apron; who told the knight that he had kept a publick-houſe in town for a dozen years, and enjoyed a good trade; which was, in a great meaſure, owing to a ſkittle-ground, in which the beſt people of the place diverted themſelves occaſionally; that Juſtice Gobble being diſobliged at his refuſing to part with a gelding which he had bred for his own uſe, firſt of all ſhut up the ſkittle-ground; but finding the publican ſtill kept his houſe open, he took care that he ſhould be deprived of his licence, on pretence that the number of ale-houſes was too great, and that this man had been bred to another employment. The poor publican, being thus deprived of his bread, was obliged to try the ſtay-making buſineſs, to which he had ſerved an apprenticeſhip; but being very ill qualified for this profeſſion, he ſoon fell to decay, and contracted debts; in conſequence of which he was now in priſon, where he had no other ſupport but what aroſe from the labour of his wife, who had gone to ſervice.

The next priſoner who preferred his complaint againſt the unrighteous judge was a poacher, at whoſe practices Juſtice Gobble had for ſome years connived, ſo as even to ſcreen him from puniſhment, in conſideration of being ſupplied with game gratis, till at length he was diſappointed by accident. His lady had invited gueſts to an entertainment, and beſpoke a hare, which the poacher undertook to furniſh. He laid his ſnares accordingly over night, but they were diſcovered and taken away by the gamekeeper of the gentleman to whom the ground belonged. All the excuſes the poacher could make proved ineffectual in appeaſing the reſentment of the juſtice and his wife at being thus diſconcerted. Meaſures were taken to detect the delinquent in the exerciſe of his illicit occupation; he was committed to ſafe cuſtody; and his wife, with five bantlings, was paſſed to her huſband's ſettlement in a different part of the country.

A ſtout, ſquat fellow, rattling with chains, had juſt taken up the ball of accuſation, when Sir Launcelot was ſtartled with the appearance of a woman, whoſe looks and equipage indicated the moſt piteous diſtreſs. She ſeemed to be turned of the middle age, was of a lofty carriage, tall, thin, weather-beaten, and wretchedly attired; her eyes were inflamed with weeping, and her looks diſplayed that wildneſs and peculiarity which denote diſtraction. Advancing to Sir Launceſot, ſhe fell upon her knees; and claſping her hands together, uttered the following rhapſody, in the moſt vehement tone of affliction.

'Thrice potent, generous, and au-'guſt emperor, here let my knees cleave 'to the earth, until thou ſhalt do me 'juſtice on that inhuman caitiff Gob-'ble. Let him diſgorge my ſubſtance 'which he hath devoured; let him 'reſtore to my widowed arms my child, 'my boy, the delight of my eyes, the 'prop of my life, the ſtaff of my ſuſ-'tenance, whom he hath torn from my 'embrace, ſtolen, betrayed, ſent into 'captivity, and murdered! — Behold 'theſe bleeding wounds upon his love-'ly breaſt! See how they mangle his 'lifeleſs corſe! Horror! give me my 'child, barbarians! his head ſhall lie 'upon his Suky's boſom—ſhe will em-'balm him with her tears. —— Ha! 'plunge him in the deep! ſhall my 'boy then float in a watery tomb!—— 'Juſtice, moſt mighty emperor! juſtice 'upon the villain who hath ruined us 'all! — May Heaven's dreadful ven-'geance overtake him! May the keen 'ſtorm of adverſity ſtrip him of all his 'leaves and fruit! May peace forſake 'his mind, and reſt be baniſhed from 'his pillow; ſo that all his days ſhall 'be filled with reproach and ſorrow, 'and all his nights be haunted with 'horror and remorſe! May he be ſtung 'by jealouſy without cauſe, and mad-'dened by revenge without the means 'of execution! May all his offſpring 'be blighted and conſumed, like the 'mildewed ears of corn, except one, 'that ſhall grow up to curſe his old 'age, and bring his hoary head with

'ſorrow to the grave, as he himſelf has 'proved a curſe to me and mine!'

The reſt of the priſoners, perceiving the knight extremely ſhocked at her miſery and horrid imprecation, removed her by force from his preſence, and conveyed her to another room; while our adventurer underwent a violent agitation, and could not, for ſome minutes, compoſe himſelf ſo well as to enquire into the nature of this wretched creature's calamity.

The ſhopkeeper, of whom he demanded this ſatisfaction, gave him to underſtand that ſhe was born a gentlewoman, and had been well educated; that ſhe married a curate, who did not long ſurvive his nuptials; and afterwards became the wife of one Oakley, a farmer in opulent circumſtances; that, after twenty years cohabitation with her huſband, he ſuſtained ſuch loſſes by the diſtemper among the cattle, as he could not repair, and that this reverſe of fortune was ſuppoſed to have haſtened his death; that the widow being a woman of ſpirit, determined to keep up and manage the farm, with the aſſiſtance of an only ſon, a very promiſing youth, who was already contracted in marriage with the daughter of another wealthy farmer. Thus the mother had a proſpect of retrieving the affairs of her family, when all her hopes were daſhed and deſtroyed by a ridiculous pique which Mrs. Gobble conceived againſt the young farmer's ſweet-heart, Mrs. Suſan Sedgemoor. This young woman chancing to be at a country aſſembly, where the grave-digger of the pariſh acted as maſter of the ceremonies, was called out to dance before Miſs Gobble, who happened to be there preſent alſo with her mother. The circumſtance was conſtrued into an unpardonable affront by the juſtice's lady, who abuſed the director in the moſt opprobrious terms for his inſolence and ill-manners; and, retiring in a ſtorm of paſſion, vowed revenge againſt the ſaucy minx who had preſumed to vie in gentility with Miſs Gobble. The juſtice entered into her reſentment. The grave-digger loſt his place; and Suky's lover, young Oakley, was preſſed for a ſoldier. Before his mother could take any ſteps for his diſcharge, he was hurried away to the Eaſt Indies by the induſtry and contrivance of the juſtice. Poor Suky wept and pined until ſhe fell into a conſumption. The forlorn widow, being thus deprived of her ſon, was overwhelmed with grief to ſuch a degree, that ſhe could no longer manage her concerns. Every thing went backward; ſhe ran in arrears with her landlord; and the proſpect of bankruptcy aggravated her affliction, while it added to her incapacity. In the midſt of theſe diſaſtrous circumſtances, news arrived that her ſon Greaves had loſt his life in a ſea-engagement with the enemy; and theſe tidings almoſt inſtantly deprived her of reaſon. Then the landlord ſeized for his rent, and ſhe was arreſted at the ſuit of juſtice Gobble, who had bought up one of her debts in order to diſtreſs her, and now pretended that her madneſs was feigned.

When the name of Greaves was mentioned, our adventurer ſtarted and changed colour; and, now the ſtory was ended, aſked, with marks of eager emotion, if the name of the woman's firſt huſband was not Wilford. When the priſoner anſwered in the affirmative, he roſe up, and ſtriking his breaſt, 'Good Heaven!' cried he, 'the very 'woman who watched over my in-'fancy, and even nouriſhed me with 'her milk!—She was my mother's 'humble friend.—Alas! poor Doro-'thy! how would your old miſtreſs 'grieve to ſee her favourite in this mi-'ſerable condition!' While he pronounced theſe words, to the aſtoniſhment of the hearers, a tear ſtole ſoftly down each cheek. Then he deſired to know if the poor lunatick had any intervals of reaſon; and was given to underſtand that ſhe was always quiet, and generally ſuppoſed to have the uſe of her ſenſes, except when ſhe was diſturbed by ſome extraordinary noiſe, or when any perſon touched upon her misfortune, or mentioned the name of her oppreſſor; in all which caſes ſhe ſtarted out into extravagance and frenzy. They likewiſe imputed great part of the diſorder to the want of quiet, proper food, and neceſſaries, with which ſhe was but poorly ſupplied by the cold hand of chance-charity. Our adventurer was exceedingly affected by the diſtreſs of this woman, whom he reſolved to relieve; and in proportion as his commiſeration was excited, his reſentment roſe againſt the miſcreant, who ſeemed to have inſinuated himſelf into the

the commiſſion of the peace on purpoſe to harraſs and oppreſs his fellow-creatures.

Thus animated, he entered into conſultation with Mr. Thomas Clarke concerning the ſteps he ſhould take, firſt for their deliverance, and then for proſecuting and puniſhing the juſtice. In reſult of this conference, the knight called aloud for the gaoler, and demanded to ſee a copy of his commitment, that he might know the cauſe of his impriſonment, and offer bail; or, in caſe that he ſhould be refuſed, move for a writ of Habeas Corpus. The gaoler told him the copy of the writ ſhould be forthcoming; but after he had waited ſome time, and repeated the demand before witneſſes, it was not yet produced. Mr. Clarke then, in a ſolemn tone, gave the gaoler to underſtand, that an officer refuſing to deliver a true copy of the commitment-warrant was liable to the forfeiture of one hundred pounds for the firſt offence, and for the ſecond to a forfeiture of twice that ſum, beſides being diſabled from executing his office.

Indeed, it was no eaſy matter to comply with Sir Launcelot's demand; for no warrant had been granted, nor was it now in the power of the juſtice to remedy this defect, as Mr. Ferret had taken himſelf away privately, without having communicated the name and deſignation of the priſoner: a circumſtance the more mortifying to the gaoler, as he perceived the extraordinary reſpect which Mr. Clarke and the captain paid to the knight, and was now fully convinced that he would be dealt with according to law. Diſordered with theſe reflections, he imparted them to the juſtice, who had in vain cauſed ſearch to be made for Ferret, and was now extremely well inclined to ſet the knight and his friends at liberty, though he did not at all ſuſpect the quality and importance of our adventurer. He could not, however, reſiſt the temptation of diſplaying the authority of his office, and therefore ordered the priſoners to be brought before his tribunal, that, in the capacity of a magiſtrate, he might give them a ſevere reproof, and proper caution with reſpect to their future behaviour.

They were accordingly led through the ſtreet in proceſſion, guarded by the conſtable and his gang, followed by Crabſhaw, who had by this time been releaſed from the ſtocks, and ſurrounded by a crowd of people attracted by curioſity. When they arrived at the juſtice's houſe, they were detained for ſome time in the paſſage; then a voice was heard, commanding the conſtable to bring in the priſoners, and they were introduced to the hall of audience, where Mr. Gobble ſat in judgment, with a crimſon-velvet night-cap on his head; and on his right-hand appeared his lady, puffed up with the pride and inſolence of her huſband's office, fat, frowzy, and not over-clean, well ſtricken in years, without the leaſt veſtige of an agreeable feature, having a rubicond noſe, ferret eyes, and imperious aſpect. The juſtice himſelf was a little, affected, pert prig, who endeavoured to ſolemnize his countenance by aſſuming an air of conſequence, in which pride, impudence, and folly, were ſtrangely blended. He aſpired at nothing ſo much as the character of an able ſpokeſman; and took all opportunities of holding forth at veſtry and quarter-ſeſſions, as well as in the adminiſtration of his office in private. He would not, therefore, let ſlip this occaſion of exciting the admiration of his hearers; and, in an authoritative tone, thus addreſſed our adventurer.

'The laws of this land has provided——I ſays as how proviſion is 'made by the laws of this here land, 'in reverence to delinquems and manefactors, whereby the king's peace 'is upholden by we magiſtrates, 'who repreſents his majeſty's perſon, 'better than in e'er a contagious nation under the ſun; but, howſomever, that there king's peace, and this 'here magiſtrate's authority, cannot be 'adequably and identically upheld, if 'ſo be as how criminals eſcapes unpuniſhed. Now, friend, you muſt be 'confidentious in your own mind, as 'you are a notorious criminal, who 'have treſpaſſed again the laws on diverſ occaſions and importunities; if 'I had a mind to exerciſe the rigour of 'the law according to the authority 'wherewith I am veſted, you and your 'companions in iniquity would be 'ſewerely puniſhed by the ſtatue; 'but we magiſtrates has a power to 'litigate the ſewerity of juſtice; and

'ſo I am contented that you ſhould be 'mercifully delt withal, and even diſ-'miſſed.'

To this harangue the knight replied, with ſolemn and deliberate accent, 'If 'I underſtand your meaning aright, I 'am accuſed of being a notorious cri-'minal; but, nevertheleſs, you are con-'tented to let me eſcape with impunity. 'If I am a notorious criminal, it is the 'duty of you, as a magiſtrate, to bring 'me to condign puniſhment; and if 'you allow a criminal to eſcape unpu-'niſhed, you are not only unworthy of 'a place in the commiſſion, but become 'acceſſary to his guilt, and, to all in-'tents and purpoſes, *ſocius criminis*. 'With reſpect to your proffered mercy, 'I ſhall decline the favour; nor do I 'deſerve any indulgence at your hands; 'for, depend upon it, I ſhall ſhew no 'mercy to you in the ſteps I intend to 'take for bringing you to juſtice. I 'underſtand that you have been long 'hackneyed in the ways of oppreſſion, 'and I have ſeen ſome living monu-'ments of your inhumanity—of that 'hereafter. I myſelf have been de-'tained in priſon without cauſe aſſigned. 'I have been treated with indignity, 'and inſulted by gaolers and conſtables; 'led through the ſtreets like a felon, as 'a ſpectacle to the multitude; obliged 'to dance attendance in your paſſage, 'and afterwards branded with the 'name of notorious criminal.—I now 'demand to ſee the information in con-'ſequence of which I was detained in 'priſon, the copy of the warrant of 'commitment or detainer, and the face 'of the perſon by whom I was accuſed. 'I inſiſt upon a compliance with theſe 'demands, as the privileges of a Bri-'tiſh ſubject; and, if it is refuſed, I 'ſhall ſeek redreſs before a higher tri-'bunal.'

The juſtice ſeemed to be not a little diſturbed at this peremptory declaration; which, however, had no other effect upon his wife but that of enraging her choler and enflaming her countenance. 'Sirrah! ſirrah!' cried ſhe, 'do you dares to inſult a worſhip-'ful magiſtrate on the bench?—Can 'you deny that you are a vagram, and 'a dilatory ſort of a perſon? Han't 'the man with the ſatchel made an af-'fidavy of it?—If I was my huſband, 'I'd lay you faſt by the heels for your 'reſumption; and ferk you with a pri-'mineery into the bargain, unleſs you 'could give a better account of your-'ſelf—I would.'

Gobble, encouraged by this fillip, reſumed his petulance, and proceeded in this manner:—'Heark ye, friend, I 'might, as Mrs. Gobble very juſtly 'obſerves, trounce you for your auda-'cious behaviour; but I ſcorn to take 'ſuch advantages: howſomever, I ſhall 'make you give an account of your-'ſelf and your companions; for I be-'lieves as how you are in a gang, 'and all in a ſtory, and perhaps you 'may be found one day in a cord.—'What are you, friend? What is your 'ſtation and degree?'—'I am a gen-'tleman,' replied the knight.—'Aye, 'that is Engliſh for a ſorry fellow,' ſaid the juſtice. 'Every idle vagabond, 'who has neither home nor habitation, 'trade nor profeſſion, deſigns himſelf a 'gentleman. But I muſt know how 'you live?'—'Upon my means.'—'What are your means?'—'My 'eſtate.'—'Whence doth it ariſe?'—'From inheritance.'—'Your eſtate 'lies in braſs, and that you have inhe-'rited from nature; but do you inherit 'lands and tenements?'—'Yes.'—'But they are neither here nor there, I 'doubt. Come, come, friend, I ſhall 'bring you about preſently.' Here the examination was interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Fillet the ſurgeon; who chancing to paſs, and ſeeing a crowd about the door, went in to ſatisfy his curioſity.

CHAP. XII.

WHICH SHEWS THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO KILL A DOG THAN HANGING.

MR. Fillet no ſooner appeared in the judgment-chamber of Juſtice Gobble, than Captain Crowe ſeizing him by the hand, exclaimed, 'Body 'o'me! Doctor, thou'rt come up in the 'nick of time to lend us a hand in 'putting about. We're a little in the 'ſtays here—but, howſomever, we've 'a good pilot who knows the coaſt, 'and can weather the point, as the ſay-'ing is. As for the enemy's veſſel, 'ſhe has had a ſhot or two already 'athwart her forefoot; the next, I do 'ſuppoſe, will ſtrike the hull, and then

'you'

'you'll ſee her taken all a-back.' The doctor, who perfectly underſtood his dialect, aſſured him he might depend upon his aſſiſtance; and, advancing to the knight, accoſted him in theſe words. 'Sir Launcelot Greaves, your moſt 'humble ſervant—when I ſaw a crowd 'at the door, I little thought of find-'ing you within, treated with ſuch in-'dignity—yet I can't help being pleaſ-'ed with an opportunity of proving 'the eſteem and veneration I have for 'your perſon and character:—you 'will do me a particular pleaſure in 'commanding my beſt ſervices.'

Our adventurer thanked him for this inſtance of his friendſhip, which, he told him, he would uſe without heſitation; and deſired he would procure immediate bail for him and his two friends, who had been impriſoned contrary to law, without any cauſe aſſigned.

During this ſhort dialogue, the juſtice, who had heard of Sir Launcelot's family and fortune, though an utter ſtranger to his perſon, was ſeized with ſuch pangs of terror and compunction as a grovelling mind may be ſuppoſed to have felt in ſuch circumſtances; and they ſeemed to produce the ſame unſavoury effects that are ſo humourouſly delineated by the inimitable Hogarth in the print of Felix on his tribunal, done in the Dutch ſtyle. Nevertheleſs, ſeeing Fillet retire to execute the knight's commands, he recollected himſelf ſo far as to tell the priſoners there was no occaſion to give themſelves any farther trouble, for he would releaſe them without bail or mainprize. Then diſcarding all the inſolence from his features, and aſſuming an aſpect of the moſt humble adulation, he begged the knight ten thouſand pardons for the freedoms he had taken, which were entirely owing to his ignorance of Sir Launcelot's quality. 'Yes, I'll aſſure you, Sir,' ſaid the wife, 'my huſband would have bit 'off his tongue rather than ſay black is 'the white of your eye, if ſo be he had 'known your capacity.—Thank God, 'we have been uſed to deal with gen-'tlefolks, and many's the good pound 'we have loſt by them; but what of 'that? Sure we know how to behave 'to our betters. Mr. Gobble, thanks 'be to God, can defy the whole world 'to prove that he ever ſaid an uncivil 'word, or did a rude thing to a gen-'tleman, knowing him to be a perſon 'of fortune. Indeed, as to your poor 'gentry and riff-raff, your tag-rag and 'bobtail, or ſuch vulgar, ſcoundrelly 'people, he has always behaved like a 'magiſtrate, and treated them with the 'rigger of authority.'—'In other 'words,' ſaid the knight, 'he has ty-'rannized over the poor, and connived 'at the vices of the rich: your huſband 'is little obliged to you for this con-'feſſion, woman.'—'Woman!' cried Mrs. Gobble, impurpled with wrath, and fixing her hands on her ſides, by way of defiance, 'I ſcorn your words. '—Marry come up, woman! quotha; 'no more a woman than your worſhip.' Then burſting into tears, 'Huſband,' continued ſhe, 'if you had the ſoul of 'a louſe, you would not ſuffer me to 'be abuſed at this rate; you would 'not ſit ſtill on the bench, and hear 'your ſpouſe called ſuch contemptible 'epitaphs.—Who cares for his title 'and his knightſhip? You and I, huſ-'band, knew a taylor that was made 'a knight; but, thank God, I have 'noblemen to ſtand by me with their 'privileges and beroguetifs.'

At this inſtant Mr. Fillet returned with his friend, a practitioner in the law, who freely offered to join in bailing our adventurer and the other two priſoners for any ſum that ſhould be required. The juſtice perceiving the affair began to grow more and more ſerious, declared that he would diſcharge the warrants, and diſmiſs the priſoners.

Here Mr. Clarke interpoſing, obſerved, that againſt the knight no warrant had been granted, nor any information ſworn to; conſequently, as the juſtice had not complied with the form of proceeding directed by ſtatute, the impriſonment was *coram non judice*, void. 'Right, Sir,' ſaid the other lawyer, 'if a juſtice commits a felon 'for trial without binding over the 'proſecutor to the aſſizes, he ſhall be 'fined.'—'And, again,' cried Clarke, 'if a juſtice iſſues a warrant for com-'mitment where there is no accuſation, 'action will lie againſt the juſtice.'—'Moreover,' replied the ſtranger, 'if 'a juſtice of peace is guilty of any 'miſdemeanor in his office, informa-'tion lies againſt him *in Banco Regis*, 'where he ſhall be puniſhed by 'fine and impriſonment.'—'And 'beſides,' reſumed the accurate Tom,

'the

'the ſame court will grant an in-
'formation againſt a juſtice of peace,
'on motion, for ſending even a ſer-
'vant to the houſe of correction or com-
'mon gaol without ſufficient cauſe.'—
'True!' exclaimed the other limb of the law; 'and, for contempt of law,
'attachment may be had againſt juſti-
'ces of peace *in Banco Regis*: a juſtice
'of the peace was fined a thouſand
'marks for corrupt practices.'

With theſe words, advancing to Mr. Clarke, he ſhook him by the hand, with the appellation of brother; ſaying, 'I
'doubt the juſtice has got into a curſed
'*hovel*.' Mr. Gobble himſelf ſeemed to be of the ſame opinion: he changed colour ſeveral times during the remarks which the lawyers had made; and now, declaring that the gentlemen were at liberty, begged, in the moſt humble phraſe, that the company would eat a bit of mutton with him, and after dinner the affair might be amicably compromiſed. To this propoſal our adventurer replied, in a grave and reſolute tone, 'If your acting in the commiſ-
'ſion as a juſtice of the peace concern-
'ed my own particular only, perhaps I
'ſhould wave any farther enquiry, and
'reſent your inſolence no other way
'but by ſilent contempt. If I thought
'the errors of your adminiſtration pro-
'ceeded from a good intention, defeat-
'ed by want of underſtanding, I ſhould
'pity your ignorance, and, in compaſ-
'ſion, adviſe you to deſiſt from acting
'a part for which you are ſo ill-quali-
'fied; but the prepoſterous conduct of
'ſuch a man deeply affects the intereſt
'of the community, eſpecially that
'part of it which, from it's helpleſs
'ſituation, is the more entitled to our
'protection and aſſiſtance. I am, more-
'over, convinced that your miſconduct
'is not ſo much the conſequence of an
'uninformed head, as the poiſonous
'iſſue of a malignant heart, devoid of
'humanity, inflamed with pride, and
'rankling with revenge. The com-
'mon priſon of this little town is filled
'with the miſerable objects of your
'cruelty and oppreſſion. Inſtead of
'protecting the helpleſs, reſtraining the
'hands of violence, preſerving the pub-
'lick tranquillity, and acting as a fa-
'ther to the poor, according to the in-
'tent and meaning of that inſtitution
'of which you are an unworthy mem-
'ber, you have diſtreſſed the widow
'and the orphan, given a looſe to all
'the inſolence of office, embroiled your
'neighbours by fomenting ſuits and
'animoſities, and played the tyrant
'among the indigent and forlorn. You
'have abuſed the authority with which
'you were inveſted, entailed a reproach
'upon your office; and, inſtead of being
'revered as a bleſſing, you are deteſted
'as a curſe among your fellow-crea-
'tures. This, indeed, is generally the
'caſe of low fellows, who are thruſt
'into the magiſtracy without ſentiment,
'education, or capacity. Among other
'inſtances of your iniquity, there is
'now in priſon an unhappy woman,
'infinitely your ſuperior in the advan-
'tages of birth, ſenſe, and education,
'whom you have, even without provo-
'cation, perſecuted to ruin and diſtrac-
'tion, after having illegally and inhu-
'manly kidnapped her only child, and
'expoſed him to a violent death in a
'foreign land. Ah, caitif! if you
'were to forego all the comforts of
'life, diſtribute your means among
'the poor, and do the ſevereſt penance
'that ever prieſtcraft preſcribed for
'the reſt of your days, you could not
'atone for the ruin of that hapleſs fa-
'mily! a family through whoſe ſides
'you cruelly and perfidiouſly ſtabbed
'the heart of an innocent young wo-
'man, to gratify the pride and diabo-
'lical malice of that wretched, low-
'bred woman, who now ſits at your
'right-hand as the aſſociate of power
'and preſumption. Oh! if ſuch a
'deſpicable reptile ſhall annoy man-
'kind with impunity; if ſuch a con-
'temptible miſcreant ſhall have it in
'his power to do ſuch deeds of inhu-
'manity and oppreſſion, what avails
'the law? Where is our admired con-
'ſtitution, the freedom, the ſecurity of
'the ſubject, the boaſted humanity of
'the Britiſh nation? Sacred Heaven!
'if there was no human inſtitution to
'take cognizance of ſuch atrocious
'crimes, I would liſten to the dic-
'tates of eternal juſtice; and, arming
'myſelf with the right of nature, ex-
'terminate ſuch villains from the face
'of the earth!'

Theſe laſt words he pronounced in ſuch a ſtrain, while his eyes lightned with indignation, that Gobble and his wife underwent the moſt violent agitation;

tion; the conſtable's teeth chattered in his head, the gaoler trembled, and the whole audience was overwhelmed with conſternation.

After a ſhort pauſe, Sir Launcelot proceeded in a milder ſtrain: 'Thank 'Heaven, the laws of this country 'have exempted me from the diſagree-'able taſk of ſuch an execution. To 'them we ſhall have immediate re-'courſe, in three ſeparate actions againſt 'you for falſe impriſonment; and any 'other perſon who has been injured by 'your arbitrary and wicked proceed-'ings, in me ſhall find a warm pro-'tector, until you ſhall be expunged 'from the commiſſion with diſgrace, 'and have made ſuch retaliation as 'your circumſtances will allow for the 'wrongs you have done the commu-'nity.'

In order to compleat the mortification and terror of the juſtice, the lawyer, whoſe name was Fenton, declared that, to his certain knowledge, theſe actions would be reinforced with divers proſecutions for corrupt practices, which had lain dormant until ſome perſon of courage and influence ſhould take the lead againſt Juſtice Gobble; who was the more dreaded, as he acted under the patronage of Lord Sharpington. By this time fear had deprived the juſtice and his help-mate of the faculty of ſpeech. They were, indeed, almoſt petrified with diſmay, and made no effort to ſpeak; when Mr. Fillet, in the rear of the knight, as he retired with his company, took his leave of them in theſe words: 'And now, Mr. Juſtice, '*to dinner, with what appetite you may.*'

Our adventurer, though warmly invited to Mr. Fenton's houſe, repaired to a publick inn, where he thought he ſhould be more at his eaſe; fully determined to puniſh and depoſe Gobble from his magiſtracy; to effect a general gaol-delivery of all the debtors whom he had found in confinement; and, in particular, to reſcue poor Mrs. Oakley from the miſerable circumſtances in which ſhe was involved.

In the mean time, he inſiſted upon entertaining his friends at dinner; during which many ſallies of ſea-wit and good-humour paſſed between Captain Crowe and Doctor Fillet; which laſt had juſt returned from a neighbouring village, whither he was ſummoned to fiſh a man's yard-arm which had ſnapped in the ſlings. Their enjoyment, however, was ſuddenly interrupted by a loud ſcream from the kitchen; whither Sir Launcelot immediately ſprung, with equal eagerneſs and agility. There he ſaw the landlady, who was a woman in years, embracing a man dreſſed in a ſailor's jacket; while ſhe exclaimed, 'It is thy own fleſh and blood, ſo ſure 'as I'm a living ſoul. Ah! poor 'Greaves, poor Greaves; many a poor 'heart has grieved for thee!' To this ſalutation the youth replied, 'I'm ſorry 'for that, miſtreſs. How does poor 'mother? How does Suky Sedge-'more?'

The good woman of the houſe could not help ſhedding tears at theſe interrogations; while Sir Launcelot, interpoſing, ſaid, not without emotion, 'I 'perceive you are the ſon of Mrs. Oak-'ley. Your mother is in a bad ſtate 'of health, but in me you will find a 'real parent.' Perceiving that the young man eyed him with aſtoniſhment, he gave him to underſtand that his name was Launcelot Greaves.

Oakley no ſooner heard theſe words pronounced, than he fell upon his knees; and ſeizing the knight's hand, kiſſed it eagerly, crying, 'God for ever bleſs your honour; I am your 'name-ſon, ſure enough!—But what 'of that? I can earn my bread with-'out being beholden to any man.'

When the knight raiſed him up, he turned to the woman of the houſe, ſaying, 'I want to ſee mother; I'm afraid 'as how times are hard with her, and 'I have ſaved ſome money for her uſe.' This inſtance of filial duty brought tears into the eyes of our adventurer, who aſſured him his mother ſhould be carefully attended, and want for nothing; but that it would be very improper to ſee her at preſent, as the ſurprize might ſhock her too much, conſidering that ſhe believed him dead. 'Ey, indeed!' cried the landlady, 'we 'were all of the ſame opinion, being, 'as the report went, that poor Greaves 'Oakley was killed in battle.'—'Lord! 'miſtreſs,' ſaid Oakley, 'there wa'n't 'a word of truth in it, I'll aſſure you. 'What, d'ye think I'd tell a lye about 'the matter? Hurt I was, to be ſure; but 'that don't ſignify; we gave 'em as 'good as they brought, and ſo parted. 'Well, if ſo be I can't ſee mother, I'll 'go and have ſome chat with Suky.

'What

'What d'ye look ſo glum for? She an't 'married, is ſhe?'—'No, no,' replied the woman, 'not married, but almoſt 'heart-broken. Since thou waſt gone, 'ſhe has done nothing but ſighed, and 'wept, and pined herſelf into a decay. 'I'm afraid thou haſt come too late to 'ſave her life.'

Oakley's heart was not proof againſt this information. Burſting into tears, he exclaimed, 'O my dear, ſweet, gen-'tle Suky! Have I then lived to be the 'death of her whom I loved more than 'the whole world!' He would have gone inſtantly to her father's houſe, but was reſtrained by the knight and his company, who had now joined him in the kitchen.

The young man was ſeated at table; and gave them to underſtand, that the ſhip to which he belonged having arrived in England, he was indulged with a month's leave to ſee his relations; and that he had received about fifty pounds in wages and prize-money. After dinner, juſt as they began to deliberate upon the meaſures to be taken againſt Gobble, that gentleman arrived at the inn, and humbly craved admittance. Mr. Fillet, ſtruck with a ſudden idea, retired to another apartment with the young farmer; while the juſtice, being admitted to the company, declared that he came to propoſe terms of accommodation. He accordingly offered to aſk pardon of Sir Launcelot in the publick papers, and pay fifty pounds to the poor of the pariſh, as an atonement for his miſbehaviour, provided the knight and his friends would grant him a general releaſe. Our adventurer told him, he would willingly wave all perſonal conceſſions; but, as the caſe concerned the community, he inſiſted upon his leaving off acting in the commiſſion, and making ſatisfaction to the parties he had injured and oppreſſed. This declaration introduced a diſcuſſion, in the courſe of which the juſtice's petulance began to revive; when Fillet, entering the room, told them he had a reconciling meaſure to propoſe, if Mr. Gobble would for a few minutes withdraw. He roſe up immediately, and was ſhewn into the room which Fillet had prepared for his reception. While he ſat muſing on this outward adventure, ſo big with diſgrace and diſappointment, young Oakley, according to the inſtructions he had received, appeared all at once before him, pointing to a ghaſtly wound which the doctor had painted on his forehead. The apparition no ſooner preſented itſelf to the eyes of Gobble, than, taking it for granted it was the ſpirit of the young farmer whoſe death he had occaſioned, he roared aloud, 'Lord 'have mercy upon us!' and fell, inſenſible, on the floor. There being found by the company, to whom Fillet had communicated his contrivance, he was conveyed to bed, where he lay ſome time before he recovered the perfect uſe of his ſenſes. Then he earneſtly deſired to ſee the knight; and aſſured him he was ready to comply with his terms, inaſmuch as he believed he had not long to live. Advantage was immediately taken of this ſalutary diſpoſition. He bound himſelf not to act as a juſtice of the peace in any part of Great-Britain under the penalty of five thouſand pounds. He burned Mrs. Oakley's note; payed the debts of the ſhopkeeper; undertook to compound thoſe of the publican, and to ſettle him again in buſineſs; and, finally, diſcharged them all from priſon, paying the dues out of his own pocket. Theſe ſteps being taken with peculiar eagerneſs, he was removed to his own houſe, where he aſſured his wife he had ſeen a viſion that prognoſticated his death; and had immediate recourſe to the curate of the pariſh for ſpiritual conſolation.

The moſt intereſting part of the taſk that now remained was to make the widow Oakley acquainted with her good fortune, in ſuch a manner as might leaſt diſturb her ſpirits, already but too much diſcompoſed. For this purpoſe they choſe the landlady; who, after having received proper directions how to regulate her conduct, viſited her in perſon that fame evening. Finding her quite calm, and her reflection quite reſtored, ſhe began with exhorting her to put her truſt in Providence, which would never forſake the cauſe of the injured widow and fatherleſs; ſhe promiſed to aſſiſt and befriend her on all occaſions, as far as her abilities would reach; ſhe gradually turned the converſation upon the family of the Greaves; and by degrees informed her, that Sir Launcelot, having learned her ſituation, was determined to extricate her from all her troubles. Perceiving her aſtoniſhed, and deeply affected at this intimation, ſhe artfully ſhifted the diſcourſe, recommended

mended reſignation to the Divine Will, and obſerved, that this circumſtance ſeemed to be an earneſt of farther happineſs. 'O I'm incapable of receiving more!' cried the diſconſolate widow, with ſtreaming eyes. 'Yet I ought not to be ſurprized at any bleſſing that flows from that quarter. The family of Greaves were always virtuous, humane, and benevolent. This young gentleman's mother was my dear lady and benefactreſs—he himſelf was ſuckled at theſe breaſts. O he was the ſweeteſt, comelieſt, beſt-conditioned babe!—I loved not my own Greaves with greater affection—but he, alas! is now no more!'—'Have patience, good neighbour,' ſaid the landlady of the White Hart; 'that is more than you have any right to affirm—all that you know of the matter is by common report, and common report is commonly falſe; beſides, I can tell you I have ſeen a liſt of the men that were killed in Admiral P——'s ſhip when he fought the French in the East-Indies, and your ſon was not in the number.' To this intimation ſhe replied, after a conſiderable pauſe, 'Don't, my good neighbour, don't feed me with falſe hope. My poor Greaves, too, certainly periſhed in a foreign land—yet he is happy—Had he lived to ſee me in this condition, grief would ſoon have put a period to his days.'—'I tell you, then,' cried the viſitant, he is not dead. I have ſeen a letter that mentions his being well ſince the battle. You ſhall come along with me—you are no longer a priſoner, but ſhall live at my houſe comfortably, till your affairs are ſettled to your wiſh.'

The poor widow followed her in ſilent aſtoniſhment, and was immediately accommodated with neceſſaries.

Next morning her hoſteſs proceeded with her in the ſame cautious manner, until ſhe was aſſured that her ſon had returned. Being duly prepared, ſhe was bleſſed with the ſight of poor Greaves, and fainted away in his arms.

We ſhall not dwell upon this tender ſcene, becauſe it is but of a ſecondary concern in the hiſtory of our knight-errant: let it ſuffice to ſay, their mutual happineſs was unſpeakable. She was afterwards viſited by Sir Launcelot; whom ſhe no ſooner beheld, than ſpringing forwards with all the eagerneſs of maternal affection, ſhe claſped him to her breaſt, crying, 'My dear child! my Launcelot! my pride! my darling! my kind benefactor! This is not the firſt time I have hugged you in theſe arms! O you are the very image of Sir Everhard in his youth; but you have got the eyes, the complexion, the ſweetneſs and complacency of my dear and ever-honoured lady!' This was not in the ſtrain of hireling praiſe, but the genuine tribute of eſteem and admiration: as ſuch, it could not but be agreeable to our hero, who undertook to procure Oakley's diſcharge, and ſettle him in a comfortable farm on his own eſtate.

In the mean time, Greaves went with a heavy heart to the houſe of farmer Sedgemore, where he found Suky, who had been prepared for his reception, in a tranſport of joy, though very weak, and greatly emaciated. Nevertheleſs, the return of her ſweetheart had ſuch an happy effect on her conſtitution, that in a few weeks her health was perfectly reſtored.

This adventure of our knight was crowned with every happy circumſtance that could give pleaſure to a generous mind. The priſoners were releaſed, and reinſtated in their former occupations. The juſtice performed his articles from fear, and afterwards turned over a new leaf from remorſe. Young Oakley was married to Suky, with whom he received a conſiderable portion. The new-married couple found a farm ready-ſtocked for them on the knight's eſtate; and the mother enjoyed a happy retreat in the character of the houſe-keeper at Greaveſbury Hall.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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